

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

BUSINESS

New threat to IMF meeting

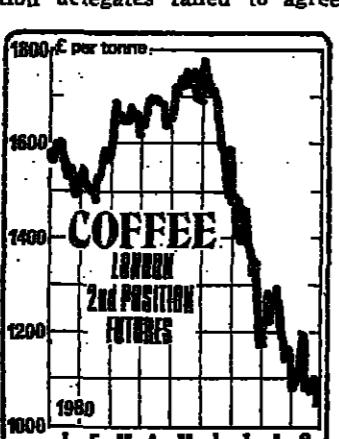
£ and \$ easier; gold off \$7.50

STERLING eased 30 points to \$2.395, and fell back against European currencies in reaction to its recent rise. Its trade-weighted index was 76.3 (76.7). Page 36

DOLLAR closed around its lowest levels: DM 1.7945 (DM 1.8115), SWF 1.6430 (SWF 1.6610), Y214.50 (Y218.25). Its index was 83.9 (84.3). Page 36

GOLD fell \$7.50 to \$708.50. Page 36. In New York Comex close was down \$20 to \$709.50.

COFFEE FUTURES dropped to four-year lows in London as International Coffee Organisation delegates failed to agree



on export quotas. November robustas fell £26.50 a tonne to £1,047. Page 43

'Alien' Callaghan

Mrs. Barbara Castle in her diaries says Sir Harold Wilson's sudden resignation left the door of Number 10 open for "an alien Right-winger" — Mr. Callaghan. Page 8

Air crash deaths

Millionaire vice-chairman of West Bromwich Albion football club Tom Silk and his wife were killed when their light aircraft crashed in southern France.

Hygiene plea

Health officials called for the compulsory licensing of food shops because hygienic practices are being ignored, and the incidence of food poisoning was increasing. Page 10.

Disease victim

A 69-year-old Scot died of legionnaire's disease in Dumfries, and in Cleveland two teenagers, just back from Spain, underwent tests for the disease.

Greek welcome

Greek Government gave a guarded welcome to reports that Turkey has eased its stand on allowing Greece back into the military wing of Nato.

Rates row

Sheffield council which faces stiff penalties for overspending wants to use ratepayers' money to send busloads of unemployed to protest at next month's Tory conference.

Dissident jailed

Moscow courts sentenced a dissident who alleged Soviet abuse of psychiatry to three years jail but freed a religious dissenter who renounced his views.

Cull quangos' call

Tory MP Philip Holland accused the Prime Minister of failing to display the "ruthless killer instinct" needed to cut back on the number of quangos. Page 10.

Briefly ...

Mild earth tremors shook Tokyo for the second day running.

Soccer manager Lawrie McMenemy was detained by police for refusing a breath test.

IRA suspect held in Holland was named as Patrick Magee.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

	RISSES	FALLS
Treas. 15pc 1980	2107	—
Treas. 12pc 1987	2051	—
Automated Security	313	+ 8
BL	20	+ 2
Copydex	27	+ 4
Cornell Dresses	72	+ 6
Gratian Warehouses	86	+ 16
Kean and Scott	75	+ 5
Kleinwort Benson	226	+ 6
Kode Intnl.	335	+ 12
Martin (R. P.)	81	+ 6
Pritchard Services	96	+ 5
EP	390	+ 8
Double Eagle	710	+ 60
Ultramar	430	+ 18
Inch. Ken. Kajago	157	+ 7
Malaysia Rubber	157	+ 12
Minorce	660	+ 16
BAT Inds.	275	— 5

Oil installations are main Gromyko to meet Muskie targets for Iraq and Iran

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

IRAQ and Iran yesterday concentrated their attacks on oil, refining and petrochemical installations while their diplomats issued threats over the control of the vital Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

Iraqi fighters attacked Iran's main crude oil loading terminal at Kharg Island last night, according to oil ministry officials in Tehran. They said part of it was on fire and exports had been suspended. Three Iraqi aircraft were claimed brought down during the raid.

Iran said earlier it had punched across the border to a depth of 10 miles in the 300-mile stretch of territory from Qasr-Shirin in the north to Abadan on the Shatt-al-Arab waterway in the south.

The oil refinery at Abadan and the nearby port of Khorramshahr are almost encircled by Iraqi troops and armour. The area was struck by aerial, naval and artillery barrages, and local residents were instructed to dig trenches and prepare petrol bombs.

Iraq's ambassador to Rome, Mr. Mohammad Amin al-Jaff, in Tokyo that his country was preparing to take control of the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf. Iraq would

guarantee safe passage for foreign tankers, he said.

Ships continued to move normally through the Strait although most were being checked by Iranian gunboats.

Iran's ambassador to Rome, Mr. Nasrullah Salami, warned that his country would do "something big" if it was isolated and the world supported Iraq. "Our last card could be very dangerous," he said.

Military experts say it would be extremely difficult for Iraq to mount an operation so far from its territory and stress that the Straits are beyond the range of its fighter aircraft. They do not discount the possibility of Iran, as last desperate throw, announcing the closure of the Straits.

The Iraqi petrochemical complex at Basra on the other side of the Shatt was also hit again and hundreds of foreign nationals poured across the border into Kuwait. More than 30 people, including British and Americans, were killed there on Tuesday together with 10 Indian construction workers whose death were reported yesterday. British nationals were being evacuated from Baghdad by land to Amman in Jordan.

Baghdad radio confirmed air and naval assaults on its deep water oil terminals at Khor al-Amaya and Mina al-Sakr, just off al-Fao island at the mouth of the Shatt. All loading of Iraqi crude has been halted and

it is having to rely for exports

on its two pipelines across

Turkey and Syria to the

Mediterranean.

Continued on Back Page

The Iran-Iraq conflict: Details

and background. Page 4



BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MR. EDMUND MUSKIE, the U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, meet today as diplomatic activity intensifies to quell the fighting between Iraq and Iran.

The spokesman said oil tanker traffic from the southern Gulf ports, including Dahrain, the major Saudi Arabian terminal, was operating "as normal" through the Straits of Hormuz.

Although Iran has declared all its territorial waters a war zone, officials in Washington said this still left a channel in the Strait outside Iranian jurisdiction which oil tankers could use.

President Jimmy Carter, back from the political campaign trail, yesterday convened a special session of the U.S. National Security Council to examine policy towards Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Muskie left a UN General Assembly to join the meeting before flying back to New York.

His talks with Mr. Gromyko are to centre on arms limitation but the conflict in the Gulf is likely to dominate.

Officials reiterated the U.S. policy of "strict neutrality" in the conflict, emphasised by Mr. Carter in California on Tuesday, and expressed "tremendous concern" about the fighting and its possible implications for the safety of the U.S. diplomatic hostages in Iran.

A State Department spokesman said that the U.S. had informed President Bani-Sadr of Iran "privately what we have

told him publicly"—that the U.S. has "no involvement whatsoever" in the fighting.

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From Beirut, it was reported that Mr. Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, had left there for Baghdad yesterday in an attempt to mediate between Iraq and Iran.

He was expected to go to Tehran.

At the UN Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and the other EEC foreign ministers appealed to all states, in particular the U.S. and the Soviet Union, to maintain restraint and avoid any broadening of the conflict.

Their statement was issued after a lengthy meeting of the ministers, under the chairmanship of M. Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg.

This was called to consider M. Thorn's report on the Community's Middle East initiative.

EEC's 1981 draft budget disowned by Commission

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday disowned a draft 1981 budget, adopted earlier, at the end of an extraordinary cost-cutting session by EEC Finance Ministers. The move represented an unprecedented display of public anger by the Commission.

GILTS: the Government Securities index put on 0.02 to 70.21 in thin trading. Page 44.

WALL STREET was up 2.90 to 964.92 near the close. Page 42.

SOVIET GOLD sales to the West resumed last month after a gap of more than six months. Nearly half a tonne was exported to Switzerland.

WEST GERMANY showed a trading deficit last month for the first time since 1965. Back Page.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD wants Government backing for industrial oil-to-coal power conversion schemes. Page 7. Some OPEC countries may have to end oil exports in 20 years to meet domestic needs an OPEC report said.

STEEL producers are to meet EEC Industry Commissioner Viscount Etienne Davignon to discuss production controls. Page 6. Usinor, France's largest steel company plans layoffs and production cuts to stem losses. Page 35.

GENERAL STRIKE to last four hours was called for next Thursday by Italian trade unions protesting at Fiat plans to cut 14,459 jobs. Page 3.

UNEMPLOYMENT will be 9.3% in Western Europe by 1985—6.3% per cent of the workforce. European Trade Union Institute forecast. Page 2.

LEYLAND VEHICLES cut £16m from the £38m projected cost of its new technical centre and test track. Page 7.

RENAULT is to increase its stake in American Motors of the U.S. from 4.7% to 6% over 46 per cent. Back Page; Peugeot threat to Talbot jobs. Page 8; high interest rates threaten Chrysler. Page 34.

BAT INDUSTRIES' first half pre-tax profits fell £8m to £202m. Page 30; Lex, Back Page.

ARMSTRONG EQUIPMENT reported taxable profits for the year of £8.04m (£8.75m). Page 30; Lex, Back Page.

Two big unions face suspension

BY JOHN LLOYD, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

TWO OF the country's largest unions with a joint membership of nearly 1.7m, will be suspended from the TUC in 15 days' time if they do not comply with a directive to observe its advice on the inter-union dispute at the Isle of Grain power station construction site.

At the same meeting which issued this unambiguous directive, the general council also voted, by 21 votes to 12, to confirm the decision of the selection committee which last week had deprived Mr. John Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union, of his seat on the powerful finance and general purposes committee.

The suspension of the two unions—the engineering and construction sections of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (1.25m members) and the EPTU (420,000 members)—which together comprise 14 per cent of total TUC membership, would be unprece-

dented with far-reaching industrial and political consequences.

If suspended, both unions would effectively lose TUC protection against poaching of its members by other unions. Such a development would raise the possibility of numerous acrimonious inter-union disputes such as at Grain.

The removal of two right-wing unions from the general council would also result in a swing to the Left in its policies.

There was no sign after the meeting that either the AUEW or the EPTU would accept the TUC's formula for Grain. Mr. Terry Duffy, president of the AUEW's engineering section, described the general council meeting as "abortive" and said: "We are convinced that the formula will not work."

Mr. Chapple said that he put the interests of his members before the views of the general council.

The sequence of events will be:

The AUEW and the EPTU have until October 10 to show that they mean to comply with the TUC's advice.

If they do not, the general council, either at a special session or at its next regular meeting on October 22, will suspend both unions.

An appeal for reinstatement cannot be heard until the TUC conference in September, 1981. That conference could vote to expel them.

Mr. Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, said after the meeting that the basic point of disagreement was the future at Grain of the 57 insulation engineers, or lagers, who replaced the 27 GMWU workers, and who are members of various unions including the AUEW and the EPTU. He said that these two unions had refused to accept the general council's assurances that they would be found alternative work once their work was reallocated to GMWU members.

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EUROPEAN NEWS

Rumbles of discontent on the Arctic front

THE North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's attempt to strengthen its northern flank is causing trouble for the Norwegian Government. The national executive of the ruling Labour Party earlier this month authorised the Government to negotiate with the U.S. about stockpiling heavy equipment in Norway for U.S. Marines. In an emergency, a Marine brigade would be flown in to reinforce Norwegian defences.

The go-ahead was given grudgingly, and was conditional on the final agreement being referred back to the executive and party organs before being submitted to the Storting (Parliament). Mr. Odvar Nordli, the Prime Minister, had to weather strong criticism from a powerful minority over the way in which he, Mr. Knut Fjeldlund, the Foreign Minister, and Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Defence Minister, had handled the matter.

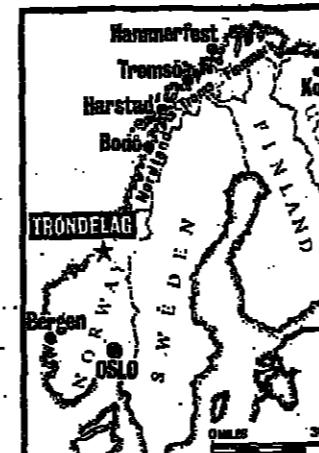
They won the executive's provisional backing only after changing their minds and deciding to stockpile the Marine's equipment not in the north, as originally planned, but some 600 to 700 kilometres further south in the Trondelag area. This would put the stocks 1,000 kilometres from the Soviet border.

Norway's generals are understood to differ over the efficacy of stocking in central Norway, but their objections have been at least partially met by a government decision to strengthen Norway's own defences in the north. A "combined regiment" will be added to the Norwegian forces there, and bigger stocks will be held in the area.

This compromise has not been well-received by the non-Socialist Opposition parties,



The Atlantic Alliance's plans to strengthen its northern flank have precipitated dissent in Norway and Denmark. In both countries the political consensus on national security is threatened. In the first of two articles, William Dullforce examines the problem in Norway.



which regard it militarily as weakening the defence of north Norway and politically as a dangerous submission to Soviet pressure and to the Labour Party's left-wing minority.

The broad political consensus on defence policy which has existed since Norway decided to join the Atlantic Alliance in 1949 is thus under strain, and the Labour Party leaders find themselves in the unenviable position of being under attack on a vital defence issue both from the Opposition and from within their own party.

Outside Norway, the first sparse comments in the Soviet press indicate that Moscow can be expected to maintain its pressure against U.S. equipment being stocked in Norway. According to Oslo, the U.S. State and Defence Departments have accepted the decision to keep the Marine's stock further south, and negotiations will now move into the final phase to enable the U.S. Congress to allocate funds in the next

No assessment of the its northern flank being turned come from alliance headquarters, but the provisional decisions to allocate a U.S. Marine brigade for the defence of Norway and to place heavy equipment for it there aim at restoring credibility to the defence of the alliance's northern flank.

That credibility has been undermined over the past decade by the build-up on the Kola Peninsula, where the Soviet Union now has its biggest strategic weapons base. The Soviet naval and air forces in the area may well be strong enough to win control over the seas off Norway as far south as the Greenland-Iceland-Faroes line, and thus to threaten supply routes from the U.S. to Europe.

Further south in the Baltic, air and amphibious exercises by Warsaw Pact forces indicate that in a crisis they would launch a powerful thrust to seize the entrances to the Baltic. The Atlantic Alliance command could easily envisage

year, when its concern that the alliance defence effort was slipping behind the attacking potential of the Eastern Bloc forces in Europe revived its interest in the northern flank. In July, Mr. Harold Brown, the U.S. Defence Secretary, suggested to Norway's Defence Minister that matters be speeded up.

But the Norwegian Government had underestimated domestic and external reaction to the stockpiling of U.S. military equipment in Norway once it became evident that the plan would go ahead.

The message from Moscow, expressed in the Soviet media and in informal diplomatic contacts, was that U.S. stockpiles would be seen as a serious military escalation. The Finns, always susceptible to any change in the strategic status which might compel the Russians to take counter measures, voiced similar fears.

But the most worrying reaction came from within the Labour Party. The minority in the parliamentary group and national executive, which had given the party's leaders such a tough time in December over Norway's decision to support the Atlantic Alliance programme to modernise its nuclear forces, queried the need to stockpile U.S. equipment, and was particularly hostile to the "secretiveness" with which it claimed the government had handled the matter.

With the next general election less than a year away, the leaders cannot risk a serious party split over defence, but the minority appears determined to press its demand for a reassessment of Norway's membership of the Atlantic Alliance.

W. Europe jobless 'will number 9m by 1985'

BY JOHN LLOYD, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

UNEMPLOYMENT in Western Europe will rise to 9m, or 6.3 per cent of the labour force, by 1985, according to a report by the European Trade Union Institute.

The institute, a research arm for the European trade union movement, calls on the European Commission to reduce unemployment to 2 per cent of the labour force over the next five years, a target which would require the creation of 10.8m jobs within the EEC and 14.9m jobs in Western Europe.

Mr. Ginter Kopek, the institute's director, says that most European Governments have abandoned the objective of full employment and has called for a radical shift in their policies. "Such shifts in policy must not wait until growing unemployment tears apart the fabric of Western European societies," he said.

The report claims that the actual unemployment figures for the EEC are consistently underrecorded by around 1m. In addition, some 1m foreign workers left the EEC labour force between 1973 and 1975.

It says that women have been particularly hard hit. Between January, 1979, and January, 1980, a rise in women's unemployment from 5.9 per cent to 7.2 per cent offset a slight fall in male unemployment.

Spain in State sector review

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

THE Spanish Government is carrying out a major review of the organisation and management of State-controlled companies.

The review, which follows the Cabinet reshuffle two weeks ago and the new Government's commitment to increase investment in the public sector, aims to establish closer co-operation and integration between companies that the State either fully owns or controls.

This is expected in particular to have an important effect on the operation of the State's holding company INI.

INI controls the bulk of State

interests in specialised credit institutes and the Banco Exterior.

Until now INI has come under the aegis of the Ministry of Industry, and the Department

under the Ministry of Finance.

Traditionally, the Finance Ministry has been more powerful than the State holding companies. These have been treated very passively by the Government, allowing the companies to be run for the benefit of the private shareholders.

A major criticism has been that these important State holdings have been treated very passively by the Government, allowing the companies to be run for the benefit of the private shareholders.

INI's letter to the Ministry of

Industry, the LO, cites "long-term industrial policy considerations" as a reason for deciding to apply the principle that hydrocarbons from Norway's shelf should when possible be brought ashore in Norway.

Although this principle was approved by the Storting (Parliament) in 1978, all pipelines so far built from Norwegian oil and gas fields have run to the UK and other parts of Western Europe. Some Norwegian-produced crude oil and natural gas liquids are brought to Norway by tanker.

The LO's letter says that if the 1978 Storting decision is not applied now it may not be possible to land gas in Norway before the end of the century.

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NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI

E.N.I.

(National Hydrocarbons Authority)

6 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures due November 1, 1980

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Sinking Fund for the Debentures of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on November 1, 1980 at the principal amount thereof \$306,000 principal amount of said Debentures, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of U.S. \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M" Bearing Serial Numbers Ending in the Following Two Digits:

10	30	55	75
<i>Also Debentures of \$1,000 Each of Prefix "M"</i>			
<i>Bearing the Following Serial Numbers:</i>			
157	1007	1207	3007
257	1157	1207	3007
357	1357	3157	3157
387	3257	4057	5257
407	4257	6857	9257
427	4257	6857	9257
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EUROPEAN NEWS

Italy's unions call for stoppage

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE MAIN Italian unions yesterday called a four-hour general strike next Thursday in protest at the Fiat motor plant's plan to make 14,469 workers redundant.

At the same time ominous new difficulties sprang up to threaten the Parliamentary passage of the Government's economic stabilisation package.

The strike was proclaimed by leaders of the CGIL-CISL-Cisl three-union confederation just a few hours before a meeting with Sig. Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, in a last-ditch bid to find a solution to the dispute.

The tough stance taken by the union leadership is essentially to avoid being outflanked by a militant shop-floor in Turin, where Fiat's plants have

been paralysed since talks in the city broke down a fortnight ago.

There are, moreover, strong indications that the opposition Communist Party, which is intensifying its efforts to unseat the five-month-old coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans, is also leaning on the unions hard.

The unions learned a bitter lesson last July when the combined forces of Communists and rank-and-file workers obliged the leadership to reverse, with great embarrassment, its earlier acceptance of a special solidarity levy on industrial salaries. This was to provide a fund to help companies in trouble.

The immediate prospects for an agreed solution to the Fiat deadlock are dim. Sig. Luciano Lama, head of the Communist

leaning CGIL union, declared that the unions would reluctantly be prepared to accept the mediation proposals of Sig. Franco Foschi, the Labour Minister.

The row at the company now threatens to become entangled with the problems facing the Government as it tries to force its economic measures through Parliament. These face Communist opposition and sniping from its own nominal supporters.

A key vote on the package on Tuesday night went the Government's way by a margin of only one, and it emerged yesterday that 19 members of the coalition parties had voted against.

The defections reflect the fears on the Christian Democrat left (broadly in favour of a new accommodation with the Communists) over the visible ambitions of Sig. Bettino Craxi,



Sig. Francesco Cossiga: talks set.

the Socialist leader, to have one of his own party (and preferably himself) as Prime Minister.

UK seen to improve EEC ties

By Jonathan Carr in Bonn

THE WEST GERMAN Government is noting with interest, but still some scepticism, new efforts by Britain to improve its ties with European Community states and with France in particular.

Clear indications of these efforts are understood to have been passed on to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in a telephone call last Sunday from M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the French President.

The President is said to have given a very positive assessment of the talks he held in Paris last Friday with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister.

Several controversial EEC topics were discussed, despite the fact that at the time of the talks it was thought that such issues would be avoided.

Herr Schmidt yesterday asked Bonn Cabinet members whether they had noted any similar improvement in atmosphere with respect to Britain and the EEC. Some evidence emerged that this was so—for example in the talks on the EEC fishing dispute.

This is in marked contrast to the bitter exchanges earlier this year, when Mrs. Thatcher was demanding concessions from her partners.

Both Herr Schmidt and M. Giscard were enraged by Mrs. Thatcher's negotiating tactics at the EEC summit in Luxembourg in April. Although the British finally gained most of what they sought, a frosty atmosphere continued to prevail between Britain on the one side and France and West Germany on the other.

One explanation being offered by German Government officials for the change is that Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, may now be exercising more control over the general line of British European policy.

Cape school closures bring black education to a halt

BY QUENTIN FEEL IN JOHANNESBURG

SECONDARY EDUCATION for black schoolchildren in South Africa's Cape Province is at a virtual standstill, because the Government has closed more than 70 schools in response to a boycott by the pupils.

Three schools have now been closed in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, bringing to 77 the total number to be closed indefinitely. In the Cape Province, 74 out of a total of 105 secondary, junior secondary and higher primary schools have been closed.

The closures have been ordered by Dr. F. H. Harzenberg, Minister of (Black) Education and Training. The boycott which began five months ago, was called to protest at the facilities in black and Coloured (mixed race) schools, and at the whole system of segregated education.

The boycott has coincided with continuing incidents of violence in the townships,

including repeated stoning of buses in Cape Town, where a simultaneous bus boycott in protest at higher fares has been continuing for five months.

The violence has also spread to the Ciskei Homeland in the Transvaal, where a bus boycott is in its fifth week in the black township of Seshego outside Pietersburg, and another

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India central bank warns Gandhi

BY K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

THE reserve bank of India, the country's central bank, has warned Mrs. Indira Gandhi's government that limited options are open to it concerning management of the economy, because of the heavy increase in oil prices.

This is one reason why monetary and credit restrictions by the reserve bank in the past year had little effect on inflationary pressures.

In its annual report for 1979-80, published yesterday, the reserve bank recommends that the Government take steps to improve productivity so that commodities in short supply become available.

It has also called for better demand management as part of the strategy to combat inflation, at present the government's

main problem since the current annual rate is more than 20 per cent.

The reserve bank said it will follow monetary and credit policies that will improve production, although the basic stance of the policies must be restrictive at present. It admits that the impact of its policies on the economy has been marginal since the inflation rate shows no sign of abatement.

The fall in savings was due to the marked drop in disposable income, because of lower agricultural and industrial production.

The reserve bank has thus confirmed the Government's own fears that the economy slipped last year.

The Government has now taken policy measures to increase production and these have been helped by a good monsoon which is expected to have an impact on agricultural and industrial output.

Strauss spells out his plans

By Our Bonn Correspondent

BUBBLING OVER with pre-election confidence, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the German opposition's rival to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, yesterday spelled out a busy programme for his first 100 days in office as the country's leader. Even Herr Strauss, however, admitted that he would first have to win the election on October 5 before the carefully thought-out programme was to become a reality.

This prime foreign policy task would be, he said, to restore U.S. confidence in Germany.

He would also use the November conference on European security and cooperation in Madrid to push for greater human rights in East Germany.

His Finance Minister, Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg (currently Christian Democrat premier of Schleswig Holstein) would immediately start to work on reducing state indebtedness.

The "new government" would, among other things, also build up its oil stocks and introduce measures to clamp down on those immigrants illegally seeking political asylum.

But Herr Strauss, it seems, is not just thinking in terms of electoral victory. If he loses, Herr Strauss suggested, the opposition parties were free to reconsider who should be the official contender for the Chancellery in the 1984 elections.

Both Herr Strauss and Herr Helmut Kohl, chairman of the Christian Democrats, denied that there was any prospect of the party splitting from Herr Strauss's Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) should they be defeated at the polls.

Volkswagen and Ford lose sales

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

IN A further sign of the deepening recession in the European motor industry, Volkswagen and Ford—two of West Germany's top motor manufacturers—recorded a steep drop in new car registrations during August.

German car manufacturers with a relatively small, clearly-defined market—such as Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) and Daimler-Benz—nevertheless remain relatively immune to the dramatic fall in demand for cars.

Daimler-Benz increased its registrations from 20,019 in August 1979 to 19,677 in August 1980, and BMW saw new car registrations

rise to 6,281 from 5,759 in the same month last year.

Volkswagen, which earlier this month announced a 28 per cent drop in profit for the first half of the year, recorded a particularly sharp fall in registrations, from 40,200 in August 1979 to 32,580 last month. This comparison with 1979, however, is with an especially strong year.

Ford, which is cutting its workforce in Germany by some 6,000 this year, is clearly still suffering from depressed sales. Registrations fell in August by some 20 per cent, from 16,855 in August 1979 to 12,772.

Switzerland heads for worst visible trade gap

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZURICH

SWITZERLAND'S foreign trade balance now seems certain to show a record deficit for the current year. Latest figures show that in the first eight months alone the trade gap has widened to SwFr 7.35bn (\$2.03bn).

This is in excess of the SwFr 7.57bn recorded for the whole of 1974, the largest deficit so far. For the January-August period of last year, the deficit was only SwFr 2.84bn (\$1.94bn).

While imports have risen in real terms by only 4.4 per cent, with a simultaneous increase in export volumes of 2.7 per cent for the period, a marked rise in average prices meant that import values jumped 29.6 per cent and those of exports by 14.4 per cent.

It is likely that the sharp expansion in the deficit on visible trade will lead to a deficit on current account in the balance of payments. This would be the first of its kind since 1965.

The foreign contribution to bank balance sheets was most marked last year in the UK and Belgium, according to a 12-country comparison published by the Swiss national bank.

The survey, based on figures supplied by central banks of various nations, shows that the foreign share of 376 British banks' total assets and liabilities amounted to 48.7 per cent and 51.4 per cent respectively. In Belgium the corresponding shares were 41.9 per cent and 50 per cent.

In Switzerland, foreign business accounted for 36.3 per cent of assets and 26.8 per cent of liabilities as contained in actual balance sheets. When fiduciary operations are added, the shares jump to 45.7 per cent and 35.7 per cent.

The smallest international stake in bank balance sheets in 1979 was that of Japan. Only 2.6 per cent of assets and 0.6 per cent of liabilities were made up by foreign positions.

Nine to discuss hormone issue

BY LARRY KLINGER IN BRUSSELS

THE SUBJECT of hormones being injected into slaughtered animals was yesterday placed on next Tuesday's agenda of the meeting of the Council of Agriculture Ministers.

The move, made at the request of Italy, follows a magistrate's ruling in a southern Italian town on Tuesday that effectively banned from yesterday the sale of veal. This amounts to the meat equivalent of a ban on pasta, and follows an earlier ruling that banned the sale of 32 varieties of baby food containing homogenised veal.

Such local rulings often lead to the lengthy procedure of setting up an inquiry and sometimes allow for the issue to blow over quietly. But the veal issue

has now grown to such political proportions that it is unlikely to subside immediately.

In France, a boycott by consumers has led to a reduction of more than 50 per cent in veal sales this month. It has forced M. Pierre Mehaugne, the Agriculture Minister, to admit the issue's importance by calling for it to be tackled at European Community level.

The European Bureau of Consumers' Unions says that the immediate danger is of hormonal balances being upset in children and old people. It says that in the Italian baby-food case signs of abnormal growth in children were attributed with "near-certainty" to hormone-injected veal.

Producers use hormones to accelerate the growth of their animals, thereby increasing turnover and, it is hoped, profit.

The issue is not new to the Commission, which has been studying the question in conjunction with EEC member countries for years. But with the Italian ban a greater urgency has developed because of the potential threat to cross-frontier trade within the Community.

The Commission has also called a meeting of experts from EEC countries for next Tuesday to discuss progress in techniques of testing food to discover their hormone content.

Control of hormone injection

is under the complete control of member countries, and it would be legal to ban the import of suspected meats.

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THE IRAQ/IRAN CONFLICT

Concern grows in UAE over spreading war

BY JAMES BUXTON

The Arab states at the eastern end of the Gulf are watching the conflict between Iran and Iraq with acute apprehension.

The United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms whose capital is Abu Dhabi, is fearful that the war could spread to the three disputed islands off its coast, which Iraq has said should be handed over by Iran to the Arabs.

Oman, though lying outside the Gulf, possesses the Masandam peninsula which lies on the south side of strategic Strait of Hormuz. The shipping lanes through the Strait run through Oman's territorial waters.

The United Arab Emirates has not reacted officially to the fighting, but is known to be monitoring it closely and with growing alarm. In what has been described as an automatic move, its forces have been put on alert.

The UAE is in an awkward position. While Arab, it also has important Persian minorities and Dubai in particular is heavily involved in trade with Iran. The UAE naturally desires to offend nobody and keep its head down.

But it could become involved if Iraq tries to enforce its demand that Iran hands back to the Arabs the three islands at the eastern end of the Gulf which it seized in December 1971. One of the islands, Abu Musa, formerly belonged to Sharjah, one of the UAE's member states; and the other two islands, the Greater and Lesser Tumbus, belonged to Ras al Khaimah, the northermost Emirate.

Naturally these Emirates maintain their claims to what they regard as the rightful own-

ership of the islands. But the UAE, with its small indigenous population and modest armed forces, would not want to be involved in fighting over the islands. If there is to be any change in the status of the islands the government in Abu Dhabi would prefer it to be peaceful.

The Sultanate of Oman could face an even more serious crisis were either Iran or Iraq to try to close the Strait of Hormuz to shipping. This could be done relatively easily if a warship were to lay mines or threaten to fire on shipping passing through. Few if any shipowners would allow their captains to try to run the gauntlet.

Already the Iranian navy has declared its side of the Gulf a war zone and its warships have by radio been checking the destinations of ships passing through the Strait.

In the case of the blocking of the Strait Oman would suffer the embarrassment of not being able to impose its sovereignty over its own territorial waters. Its only consolation would be that its own oil production of just under 300,000 b.d. is exported from a terminal near Muscat within the Strait of the Gulf of Oman.

However the U.S. indicated on Tuesday that it would not allow the oil supply routes to be threatened and it has the naval power standing by in the Indian Ocean to break any blockade of the Strait. Oman recently signed an agreement with the U.S. allowing the U.S. to make use of naval and military facilities in the Sultanate following specific requests to do so. That agreement could soon be activated.

According to reports from the UK, ships passing through the Strait are being questioned by the Iranian Navy about their destination, but this is the only interference.

British crews at the top of the Gulf are being paid a war-risk bonus which means their salaries are doubled. The British unions have also asked the owners to double the agreement on death benefits from a maximum of £22,000 to £44,000.

Strait closure would hit 500 ships

By William Hall,
Shipping Correspondent

ALTHOUGH traffic continued to move freely through the busy Strait of Hormuz yesterday, a confidential survey has shown that almost 500 ships would be seriously affected if the entrance to the Gulf was closed.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence has compiled a list of vessels either in or en route for the Gulf. Greek ships (128) are most important, followed by British (51), Japan (49) and Liberian (38).

From a total of 486 ships listed by Lloyd's, the majority belong to countries outside the Gulf. Kuwait has 35 ships either in or on their way to the Gulf. Iran has 24 and Iraq 16.

As was the case in Iran, it stands to lose perhaps more than any of the industrialised countries if the Iraq-Iran conflict is not contained.

So far, Japanese officials and businessmen, who have laboured intensively in recent years to cultivate ties with Iraq, are counting on hopes that the war will not last very long. Should they prove wrong Japan could face a loss of nearly 10 per cent of its oil supplies that Iraq has provided since Iranian shipments stopped last April.

A long-term disruption in the region could also put in jeopardy the billions of dollars in contracts. In 1979, contracts won by the Japanese in Iraq tripled in value to nearly \$2.5bn (£1bn) for projects ranging from new hospitals and housing to oil refineries and liquid petroleum gas plants.

Iraq accounted for a remarkable 49 per cent of all such overseas orders won by Japan last year.

Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan's biggest trading com-

Saudis see hostilities as grave threat to area

BY OUR JEDDAH CORRESPONDENT

THE SAUDI Government sees the conflict between Iran and Iraq as a grave threat to the stability of the Gulf region, and this acute concern overrides the mixed feelings it has about both the combatants.

The Kingdom has made no official comment on the fighting. It cannot appear to be supporting either side without damaging its declared advocacy of Islamic solidarity. Only last month, Crown Prince Fahd urged Moslems everywhere to mobilise their potential in a jihad or crusade to recover Jerusalem from Israel.

On Tuesday King Fahd spoke in a National Day broadcast of the need for Arab and Islamic solidarity as the means to further progress.

But the Saudi media have tended to play up the news favourable to Iraq, and there is no doubt that the Saudis have decided to back Baghdad. Ayatollah Khomeini is regarded as a major threat to the Kingdom, partly because of the power he apparently has to stir up Saudi Arabia's Shia minority which is concentrated in vital oil-producing Eastern Province.

The two countries have quarrelled within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with Iran providing the bitterest opposition to the Long Term Strategy for oil price indexation which was the product of a committee under Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Oil Minister.

Before the abortive Vienna



Crown Prince Fahd: urged holy war for Jerusalem.

Britons advised to stay away

By Reginald Dale

THE FOREIGN OFFICE has advised British ships not to visit Iraqi or Iranian ports, and is discouraging British citizens from visiting Iraq unless they have "essential reasons." Similar advice has for some time been given to prospective travellers to Iran.

In Baghdad, the British Embassy is helping to arrange convoys for British subjects and their families fleeing the country by road to Iran and Kuwait. One convoy, 100-strong, left Baghdad for Amman yesterday morning during a lull in the fighting. But the Embassy has not yet called for a general evacuation of Iraq by British subjects, many of whom are not in war zones.

Mr. Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office responsible for Middle East affairs, said yesterday that the vast bulk of shipping traffic in the Gulf was not so far imperilled.

Before the abortive Vienna

Iraqi President makes his bid for Nasser's crown

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

THE ATTACK on Iran is Iraq's bid to become the predominant power in the Middle East. If its armies defeat the Iranian forces in the plains of Khuzestan, then Iraq's President Saddam Hussein will become the first Arab leader since Nasser to secure dominant influence in the region.

If he loses, the power of militant Islam under Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary leader, will dominate the Gulf and Saudi Arabia. The diminution of U.S. influence in the region since the fall of the Shah in 1979, and the isolation of Egypt since it made peace with Israel, has left a power vacuum. Iraq intends to fill it. The rulers in Riyadh, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi and their scanty populations will have little choice but to ally themselves with the victor in the present conflict.

Baghdad has long had the potential to become the great power in the Arab world lost of Cairo. This strength depends on a unique combination: oil and people. Its 38m population is large in Arab terms, greater than that of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait and the smaller emirates of the Gulf put together. This enables it to field a powerful army and to create an administration not ultimately dependent on the skills of expatriate labour, as happens elsewhere in the oil states.

In addition to this large population, the oil wells around Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, and Basra, in the south, now have the capacity to produce

Saddam Hussein—the man behind the mask

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein came up the hard way in Iraqi politics. Over the past three decades that has meant intrigue, ruthlessness, personal courage and a knowledge of firearms.

The experience of those early years shows in the man, who is still only 43, today. Not tall, but solidly built, his hair and lush moustache immaculately groomed, he exudes authority. His presence as last December's Arab summit in Tunis had an immediate impact on the other delegates. For the television cameras he stared straight ahead, absolutely still and unblinking.

That international or internal Arab persona contrasts sharply with the image being created for him inside Iraq, since he assumed the presidency last

Then he was on the run again,

reels a day, making Iraq the second-largest crude exporter in the world. This year's oil revenues should total some \$35bn. Unlike Iran, exploration has been limited, but it is widely believed in the oil industry that crude reserves could be the highest in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia.

Why was Baghdad unable to

before? Since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1958, it has usually remained on the sidelines of Arab politics, absorbed by its ferocious domestic policies. For all the militancy of its denunciations of Israel, the Baghdad rulers have usually confined their radicalism—so Arab leaders have noted with some surprise—to the

reasons for this self-absorption were simple. The Ba'ath party, gained an insecure hold on power through a coup in 1968. Its ideology was, and is, a mixture of secular socialism and extreme Arab nationalism, but it differed from the Ba'ath party which holds power in Damascus. In that it was the

Hussein, which has kept the officer corps under firm control. Up to 1974, the Ba'ath Party itself was riven by feuds. Public executions were common in the central squares of Baghdad, and torture was institutionalised in the prisons. Only last year, the ruling Ba'ath Party Revolutionary Command Council in that it was the

were executed. Mr. Saddam Hussein, long the party's secretary-general, took over as President from his old ally and relative, Gen. Hassan Al-Bakr. The ruling group is united not only by ideology but by common membership of the mainstream Sunni sect of Islam. Although a minority in Iraq, most of whose population are

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Chaos as the refugees stream out of Iraq

BY ANDREW WHITLEY

HUNDREDS OF Western refugees from air attacks on Baghdad and Basra were yesterday making their way by road to neighbouring Kuwait and Jordan.

By midday about 250 British subjects had reached the safety

sibility of getting emergency flights into Iraq.

Instead they have been encouraging those of their community who want to get out to organize bus convoys for the trip through the desert to Amman.

A trial bus load of 50 Britons, mainly women and children, left Baghdad yesterday for the Jordanian capital. According to the Foreign Office if all goes well another six buses will make the trip.

Concern centres on those who had to make their way out of the bombed petrochemical complex as best as they could,

leaving all their possessions behind.

At least 50 British subjects and several hundred other nationalities, many of them Poles, are believed to be still waiting at the desert border crossing with Kuwait for permission to enter the sheikdom.

Four Britons and possibly three Americans died in the first bomb attack at Khor al-Zubair, and a number of others injured are now recovering in Kuwaiti hospitals. One Italian, part of a group of several hundred in transit to Kuwait at the time, lost an arm.

The survivors on arrival in

Kuwait yesterday spoke of the chaos as everyone scrambled for safety, using whatever transport was available. Many were employees of Lummus Thyssen.

A large contingent of about 1,000 Japanese workers are also believed to be making their way to Kuwait, according to diplomatic sources, but there has been no confirmation of this report.

Meanwhile, about 175 Swedes and Danes are being evacuated by their governments from Baghdad to Amman. From there they are expected to fly home today.

Hundreds of other Scandinavians

are gathering in Baghdad awaiting instructions depending on what happens in the war over the next few days.

At the latest count there were about 2,500 British subjects, including 800 married to Iraqis, living in Iraq. There were a similar number of Scandinavians, approximately 700 West Germans and an unknown number of French.

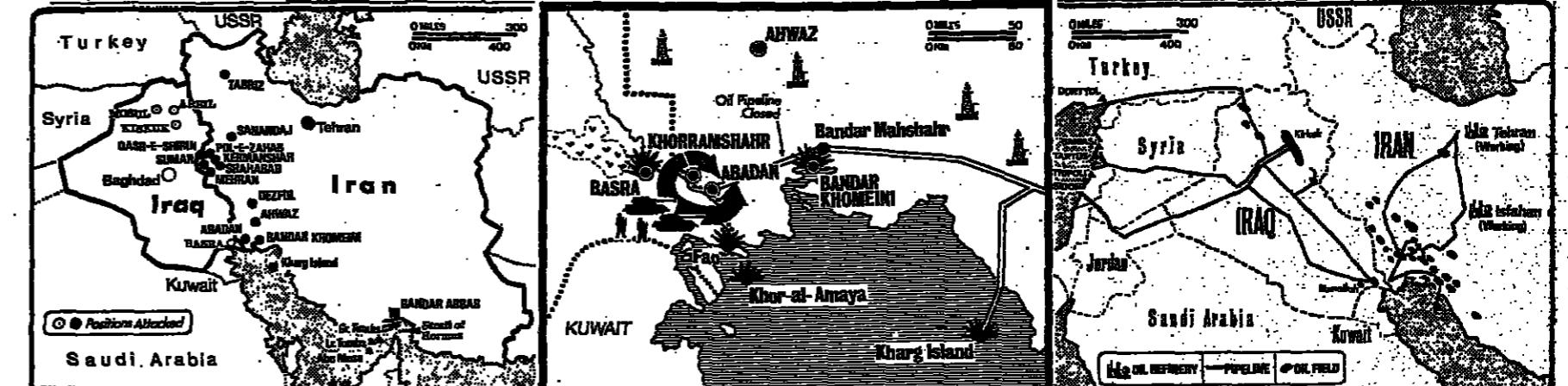
The first evacuation flight from Iraq was planned yesterday to take mainly dependants of Lummus Thyssen employees to Amsterdam. The company arranged a charter flight but it was not known whether the

plane managed to land and take off again in the midst of the fighting.

In the first place, Western governments are concentrating on arranging hotel rooms in Kuwait and Amman, not an easy task in these two cities at best. From there they are trying to arrange commercial flights on to their destinations.

Officially, no thought has been given yet to the safety of the sort which took thousands of foreigners out of Iran as the agitation there against the Shah mounted in late 1978, and again after the success of the revolution there.

THE GULF WAR SPREADS



Japan fears being the Mideast loser again

BY RICHARD C. HANSON IN TOKYO

JAPAN IS once again holding its breath over events in the Middle East.

As was the case in Iran, it stands to lose perhaps more than any of the industrialised countries if the Iraq-Iran conflict is not contained.

Privately, it estimates the value of its business so far contracted at about \$5bn. The company is said to have won the loyalty of the Iraqi Government for completing a fertiliser project after the first oil crisis, despite mounting losses to

over a year earlier to \$1.4bn.

Motor exports were up 114.7 per cent, and have already surpassed in value last year's total. Truck orders in particular were brisk in the weeks before hostilities broke out.

The question once again is being asked by the Japanese, as a result of the latest flare-up in the Middle East, is whether there is any way to avoid the

risks inherent in a heavy involvement there. Mitsui and Company, with its troubled \$3.3bn petrochemical project at Bandar Khomeini in Iran, now wishes it had never become involved in the first place.

Work on the project, located near the war zone, has again

Mitsui already wishes it had never got involved in the troubled \$3.3bn petrochemical project at Bandar Khomeini, where work has been halted because of the fighting.

Iraq has replaced Iran over the past two years as the second largest Middle East market (following Saudi Arabia) for Japanese exports, particularly for trucks and cars. Exports to Iraq in the first seven months of this year gained 65 per cent over a year earlier to \$1.4bn.

Motor exports were up 114.7 per cent, and have already surpassed in value last year's total. Truck orders in particular were brisk in the weeks before hostilities broke out.

Iraq accounted for a remarkable 49 per cent of all such overseas orders won by Japan last year.

Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan's biggest trading com-

pany, has since the early 1970s played the dominant role among Japanese companies in Iraq, much like the role which its rival, Mitsui and Company, played in pre-revolution Iran.

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risks inherent in a heavy involvement there. Mitsui and Company, with its troubled \$3.3bn petrochemical project at Bandar Khomeini in Iran, now wishes it had never become involved in the first place.

In early 1980, Italy won orders totalling \$1.1bn, mainly in the fast-developing sector of infrastructure construction. GIE is to build a power station costing some \$500m, while Nuovo Pignone won a contract for a \$210m compressor station.

Like France, Italian companies are heavily involved in helping Iraq set up a nuclear power industry—a programme which has stirred considerable controversy in the West. Five nuclear research laboratories have been ordered from Rome,

in addition to the two experimental reactors being built by Paris.

Unsurprisingly, the growing relationship with Western Europe has had its low points as well. France and Britain have experienced setbacks because of Baghdad's disregard for internationally accepted diplomatic conventions; and, in Britain's case, this has adversely affected current trade prospects.

Exports to Iraq in 1979 were worth about £

Presidential contenders vie for Jewish vote in key states

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

LET THE Palestine Liberation Organisation breeze into Washington in the heart of the U.S. presidential election campaign, and the Carter White House knows full well it could kiss most of the American Jewish vote goodbye. So, the Administration has fought tooth and nail to stop the Palestinians getting observer status at next week's International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings here, and has apparently succeeded.

In the longer run, the victory may be Pyrrhic. "We cashed in a lot of our chips," one U.S. official explained, in strong-arm enough Fund and Bank member Governments to keep the Palestinians out, and he doubted whether the effort could be repeated. But President Jimmy Carter, like his rivals, has eyes only for the November 4 finishing tape, and the President has at least prevented his standing with the American Jewish community from sliding any lower.

Mr. Carter has "played a very effective, quiet game" on this issue, says Mr. Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee, one of the biggest political lobby groups. But because it was private diplomacy—persistent telephone calls by Mr. William Miller, the Treasury Secretary, and Mr. Edmund Muskie, Secretary of State, to their ministerial counterparts abroad—it will not rebound to Mr. Carter's public credit. American Jews, accord-

ing to all recent surveys, favour Mr. John Anderson, the independent candidate, over the Democratic and Republican nominees.

All three runners for the White House are making a strong pitch for the domestic Jewish vote, for electoral reasons time-honoured and well-known by now. Just under 6m strong, U.S. Jews make up 3 per cent of the population. But in sharp contrast to the apathetic general electorate, Jews find it very hard to abstain from the polling booth and traditionally make up 5 to 7 per cent of the national vote.

Crucially, U.S. Jews are concentrated in the most populous areas, such as California and Florida. And almost half of them live in the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut-Pennsylvania belt. These big states have a heavy weighting in the electoral college, and Jews can provide the edge in, say, New York, where they can account for 20 per cent of the turn-out.

But U.S. Jews do not form a monolithic voting block. They sharply differ on the kind of Israel they want Washington to support.

This summer, some influential U.S. Jews broke with Mr. Menahem Begin's West Bank settlement policy, calling themselves the "Peace Now" movement, and like many Americans their admiration for President Anwar Sadat of Egypt exceeds their esteem for the Israeli leader.

Likewise, U.S. Jews are



Mr. Carter with Mr. Sadat and Mr. Begin at the signing of the peace treaty

much more solidly in the Democratic camp at home than they used to be. Former President Richard Nixon, for instance, received 35 per cent of the Jewish vote in 1972. The "rot" he will tell you, started with the Administration's 1978 sale of top-notch jet fighters to Saudi Arabia against Senator George McGovern, who was thought to be a waverer on Israel. Any American Jew can quickly list the reasons why it seems next to impossible for Mr. Carter

this year to repeat his feat of winning the 75 per cent of last summer's dispute over contacts with the Palestinians. rose to a climax in this March's bungling of the U.S. vote in the United Nations over Israeli settlement policy, and was then aggravated by Mr. Carter's (and, less sensitively, to rejection in August of his Egypt), continued with Mr. Carter's reluctant acceptance of Mr. Andrew Young's resign-

Two factors mitigated the effect of these events on U.S. Jews. The resignation of Mr. Young, virtually the Carter Administration's top black appointee, did not lead to a lasting split between Jews and Blacks, forcing Mr. Carter to choose between these two main strands of the traditional Democratic coalition. Talk a year ago by angry Black leaders, who saw Mr. Young as sacrificed on the altar of Zionism, of opening a dialogue with the PLO has been submerged in concern about economic recession.

Second, and more important, was Mr. Carter's role in bringing Egypt and Israel together in the Camp David accords and a bilateral peace treaty. Despite the sticky sequel in the dragging Palestinian autonomy talks, these achievements stand as the prime success of a Carter first term. As a carrot for voters to re-elect him, Mr. Carter holds out the prospect of another, post-November Middle East

summit.

Capitalising on these agreements whenever and wherever possible, Mr. Carter has also been reminding Jewish voters that half of the \$22bn that Israel has ever got from the U.S. has come during his presidency—\$3bn this year alone.

Seeking to allay the widespread Jewish suspicion that he would use the freedom of a second White House term to

put the negotiating squeeze on Israel, he has promised never

to cut this flow of aid. The nub of the Carter message is that his rivals may promise Israel more (and they do), but that he is the more effective in helping Israel solve its practical problems.

Mr. Ronald Reagan has won loud plaudits from Jewish audiences by slamming Mr. Carter for failing to brand the PLO outright as a "terrorist organisation"—a label the Administration has always stopped just short of using—and by calling Israel "a very reliable friend, not always true of the U.S. Government under Jimmy Carter."

The Republican candidate may yet score as high among Jews as Mr. Nixon did in 1972. But there are grounds for thinking that any Republican nominee but Mr. Reagan might have done much better this year. Jewish qualms about Mr. Reagan seem to fall into three areas. A Reagan Administration might have to its fore the conservative business wing of the Republican Party, personified by Mr. John Connally who dropped out early in the primaries to back Mr. Reagan.

But before he did so, Mr. Connally, whose Houston law practice has many Arab clients, came up with a Middle East plan, which boiled down to a swap of Arab oil for U.S. weapons against Soviet influence, with Israel forced to like it or lump it. This revived U.S. Jewish fears that if the stark alternative is Arab oil or Israeli

security, the U.S. will choose oil. All three 1980 White House contenders profess born-again Christianity, making religious minorities in the U.S. understandably edgy about an eroded division between church and state. Jewish fears that Mr. Reagan might carry his beliefs to greater lengths have been given impetus by the Republican candidate's sharp stand against abortion (which is simply not an issue in the Jewish community), and his public sharing of Christian fundamentalist doubts about evolution.

Mr. Reagan, finally, is simply too conservative for many U.S. Jews who, despite their rapid climb up the economic and social ladders in recent years, were not so long ago allied with the black community in the fight for civil rights. Mr. Reagan may pass the litmus test on Israel. But "policy towards Israel, though a serious matter, is not the only basis on which Jews make their judgement," Mr. Bookbinder says.

This in part explains why so many U.S. Jews have apparently swung to the eclectic Mr. Anderson. The independent candidate more than passes muster on Israeli policy (outdoing Mr. Reagan even in calling for eventual recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital). He is articulate, always a plus with Jewish voters, and somewhat conservative on economic issues at the same time as being liberal on social ones.

Jamal presses IMF on issue of PLO observers

BY JUREK MARTIN, IN WASHINGTON

THE CONTROVERSY surrounding next week's annual meeting in Washington of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank has been compounded by a new threat from Third World nations angered at the probable exclusion of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Mr. Amir Jamal, the Tanzanian Finance Minister and chairman of the annual meeting, has told the IMF by cable that if the PLO is banned he will issue no invitations to any of the observers who customarily attend.

His warning was reportedly pressed at a session on Tuesday of the IMF's executive directors by Third World representatives. Mr. Jamal is in Bermuda for the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting and refused comment yesterday.

After its board meeting on Tuesday, the IMF announced that the U.S. had succeeded in raising both the necessary quorum and support for its proposal that the observer list be confined to those present in Belgrade last year, pending a review of the whole observer question, to be completed by March next year.

More than 50 international institutions have enjoyed observer status in the past. Although the total attendance at an annual meeting can run as high as 10,000 (including staff, Finance Ministers, assistants, observers, guests, visitors and the Press), the actual number of official observers is quite small: only about 150 were officially so

Bermuda talks, Page 8

Maine rejects move to close its nuclear plant

BY OUR WASHINGTON STAFF

VOTERS IN MAINE have rejected by a large margin a move to close down the state's only nuclear power plant and to ban the building of future reactors.

A referendum, held on Tuesday, was the first in U.S. history aimed at shutting down one of the country's 70 operating nuclear power reactors, and its outcome was taken seriously by both the nuclear industry and environmental and anti-nuclear groups.

Governor Joseph Brennan said he was "extremely pleased"

because closure of the Yankee reactor would have hit the state's shaky economy.

At the same time, Maine was unlikely to build any more reactors, the Governor said. The referendum turnout, the highest of any election in the state's history, showed that powerful anti-nuclear sentiment existed.

Meanwhile, in the very last primary of this season, Senator Donald Stewart of Alabama was unseated in the Democratic primary by Mr. Jim Folsom junior, son of a famous populist father of the same name.

World Development Report, 1980

This is the third annual report in the World Bank's series designed to present a continuing assessment of development problems. The 1980 Report focuses on adjustment and growth in the 1980s, with particular attention to human resources, development, and poverty alleviation.

Part I looks at prospects and issues for development, the outlook of developing countries and international problems and policies. Part II concentrates on human resources and looks at the dimensions of poverty, sources of growth, prospects of raising the income of the poor, and health, nutrition, and fertility. The Report examines some practical lessons demonstrating that human development requires physical support and a reduction in financial constraints. Finally, it discusses the prospects and priorities in the different regions: Africa (sub-Saharan and north), Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. £8.95 paper covers £3.50

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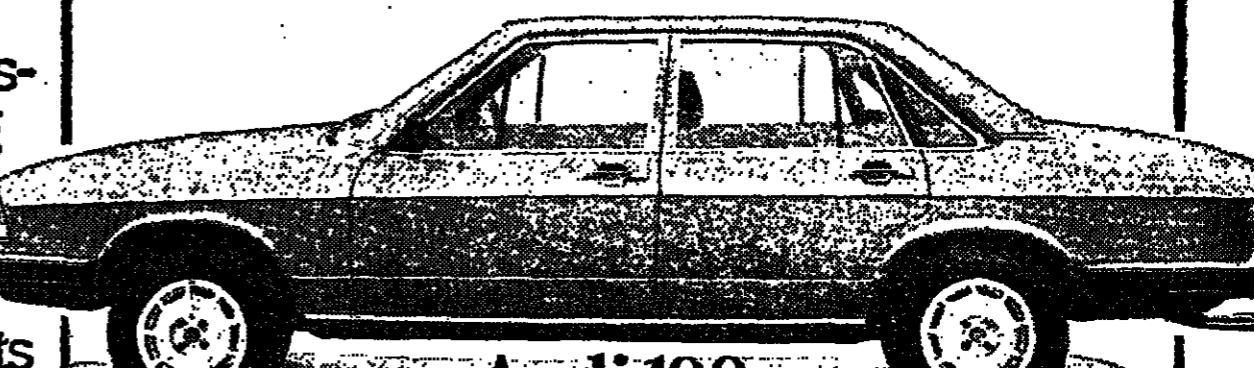
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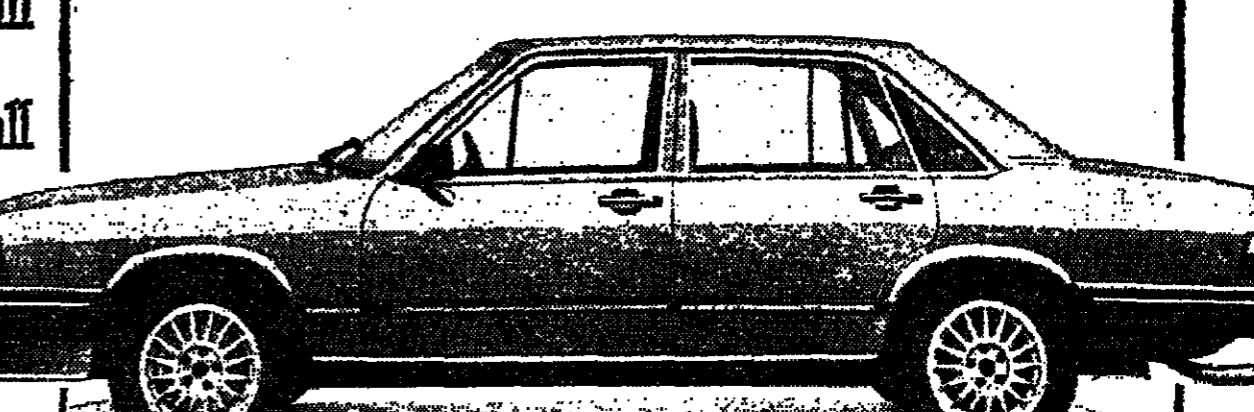
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Audi 80
AUDI 80GLS 12% p.a. 4% p.a. SAVING
TOTAL 24 MONTHS INTEREST CHARGE £965.76 £321.92 £634.84



Audi 100
AUDI 100 GLS AUTO 12% p.a. 4% p.a. SAVING
TOTAL 24 MONTHS INTEREST CHARGE £1,304.16 £434.72 £869.44



Audi 200 Turbo
AUDI 200 TURBO 12% p.a. 4% p.a. SAVING
TOTAL 24 MONTHS INTEREST CHARGE £2,103.84 £701.28 £1,402.56

*2% PER ANNUAL INTEREST IS EQUIVALENT TO 7.8% APR. FOR A TWO YEAR AGREEMENT ON THE ROAD. PRICES WERE USED AS A BASIS FOR THE CALCULATIONS. FIGURES ARE CALCULATED ON A ONE THIRD DEPOSIT AND TWO YEAR MAXIMUM REPAYMENT PERIOD, THESE BEING THE TERMS OF THIS OFFER. ALL FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE BY AUDI LIMITED.

UK NEWS

BL cuts technical spending by £16m

LEYLAND VEHICLES, BL's bus and truck subsidiary, has cut by £16m the £88m it originally intended to spend on its new technical centre and test track at Leyland.

The cutback emerged yesterday at the formal opening of the centre by Sir Keith Joseph, which also saw a visit from Mr. Industry Secretary, an event David Abell, managing director of Leyland Vehicles, told Sir Keith for more home market protection for the UK commercial vehicle industry.

Mr. Abell said after the opening ceremony that the decision to reduce spending on the centre was made partly because of the change in market conditions, but mainly because Leyland simply did not have the cash available.

Mr. Abell, at the formal ceremony, and the unions represented at Leyland at a private meeting later, made it clear to Sir Keith they want

more protection for the industry. Mr. Abell called for "fairness in the condition we face when trading with our international trading partners."

"There are no restrictions placed in their way when they introduce a new model here although they and we face months of delay when trying to export to many of their countries."

Behind these remarks is the fact that the UK alone among the major manufacturing countries in Europe does not have its own technical tests for commercial vehicles.

This makes it much easier for Continental manufacturers to switch vehicles to the UK during recessions rather than other EEC countries.

For example, it took Leyland 18 months to get one vehicle through the French-type approval tests whereas a similar Renault truck took only a few weeks to get into Britain.

Shareholders to get £100 discount on any BL car

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

BL'S REMAINING 85,000 private shareholders are to receive a rather different form of rights issue—a £100 discount on any BL car.

All shareholders on the register as of May 15 are entitled to the discount, which is additional to any others on offer.

Currently, with a fierce battle being waged for sales many customers have been able to negotiate substantial discounts with individual dealers. But in addition BL is already operating a price-cutting campaign in which up to £500 extra is being offered off some models.

Thus, under the new scheme, called Shards (shareholder discount), a shareholder would be able to save—on a 26,200 Princess 2200, for example—whatever he can negotiate with the dealer, plus £500 under the price-cutting scheme and an extra £100 as a shareholder.

The scheme does not, however, apply to BL's biggest shareholder, the Government, which has held 99 per cent of BL's equity since 1975.

It is being launched as part of an intensified sales drive which gets under way at the

start of October with the launch of the Metro, the small car on which BL's survival as a volume manufacturer depends.

But it will extend beyond short-term promotional campaigns: from next May, holders for more than six months of 1,000 or more shares in BL will continue to be entitled to the discount.

There has been spasmodic pressure on BL from the government to adopt such an incentive for a long time. It took the steep down-turn in the car market this year to provide the catalyst.

Shareholders were told of the discount scheme in the half-yearly accounts at the start of this month. The documents they received thus varied slightly from those made public when BL revealed its half-year loss of £180m.

"But we felt this was one scheme where we had to tell the shareholders first," a BL spokesman said yesterday.

Shareholders wanting to take up the discount must send an application to BL itself, which will provide a letter of authority which the shareholders can then present to the dealer.

Westward awaits verdict by broadcasting authority

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

THE INDEPENDENT Broadcasting Authority will decide today how to respond to a request from Lord Harris of Greenwich for backing in his battle with Mr. Peter Cadbury over who is to run Westward Television.

The authority has managed to remain detached from the arguments so far, but today will have before it a draft response to a direct request for intervention from Lord Harris. Present indications are that it will deliver what one interested observer termed "a rap on the knuckles rather than a slap on the wrist" to all concerned.

Lord Harris was elected chairman of Westward in a palace coup in the late summer. Since then, Mr. Cadbury, the man whom Lord Harris replaced and the largest voting shareholder and driving force behind the creation of Westward, has been striving to regain the chair.

The authority has almost total ultimate power over commercial television companies. Certainly,

it has the right of veto over board appointments. Supporters of Lord Harris hope that it will indicate its unwillingness to endorse changes in the boardroom which might result in the pre-eminence of Mr. Cadbury and his supporters.

However, the authority seems inclined to reply by insisting that Westward puts its own house in order and add a thinly hidden demand that this be done with some rapidity. Its own ultimate weapon is the immediate withdrawal of the Westward franchise—a move which is unlikely but, with two rival contenders eager to take up the reins, not impossible.

Lord Harris' case to the authority against Mr. Cadbury is heavily drawn from Mr. Cadbury's own affidavit to the High Court this month when both parties were seeking court support for their actions in the dispute. In the affidavit, Mr. Cadbury gave a detailed account of what for him and Westward has been an eventful year.

Burne-Jones tapestry fetches £90,000

SOTHEBY'S BELGRAVIA yesterday held its first auction devoted to costumes and textiles. These ranged in date from 1500 to 1960. Hubner, the German dealer paid £80,000 for the tapestry Summoned to the Quest by a Strange Damsel, designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones in the 1890s and woven by Morris & Company at Merton Abbey.

It is 7 ft 10½ ins high and 17 ft wide and was one of a set of five commissioned by George "Digger" McCulloch, an Australian mining engineer. Hubner will have to pay an additional 11.5 per cent in buyer's premium and VAT. In 1978 three tapestries, on the same theme and made for William Darcy, another Australian magnate, sold at Sotheby's for £40,000, £28,000 and £26,000 respectively.

The sale totalled £143,796 with only 1.1 per cent bought in. The Victoria and Albert Museum bought, among other lots, a William and Mary gentleman's jacket of the 1690s for £2,900, the Museum of London acquired a 1801 book of dress samples, for £180; and Castle Howard paid £600 for a rare, early-18th century damask banyan with "Persian" brocade. A 1930 blue-sequinned evening dress sold for £400 and an early 1850s Jacques Fath strapless evening-dress for £190.

SALE ROOM

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

Penning-Roswell and declared "excellent." A Chateau Lafite 1822 made £3,500.

In the same sale of fine and rare wines and spirits, 64 dozen bottles from the stock of Chateau Cheval Blanc, 1947, considered by many to be the finest claret produced this century, went for £54,000, with prices ranging between £800 and £1,100 a dozen. A Comet magnum of 1811 cognac (comet years are supposed to produce great vintages) sold for £700.

At Christie's a pair of little-used 12-bore side lock ejector guns, by Boss, was bought by an American collector for £16,000. They were built in 1977. At Christie's, South Kensington, a painting of barges on the Medway fetched £750.

Shell plans to drill in New Forest

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

SHELL UK is planning to drill for oil and gas in the middle of the New Forest.

The drilling site, in a Forestry Commission clearing, is about two miles south-east of Lyndhurst, Hampshire. Shell said that provided the necessary planning permits were granted, a well would be sunk to about 6,000 feet at a cost of more than £500,000.

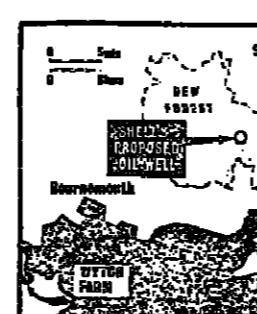
The company expects to spend at least two months in consultations with Hampshire County Council, the New Forest District Council and other interested organisations, before submitting a planning application. The exploration project will not be started until next year.

The company said that if oil or gas is found, additional planning permission might be sought for appraisal drilling.

The application is part of a new attempt by Shell to search for hydrocarbons on land as well as on the UK Continental Shelf.

In May, Shell said it was applying for planning permission to drill two sites to the north of Lyndhurst—one at School Farm, near Butt's Green, Lockerley in Hampshire and the other on Forestry Commission ground at Hawkes Grove, five miles south east of Salisbury in Wiltshire. Planning permission has already been given for the second of these projects.

Like other oil groups, Shell is taking a keen interest in the onshore potential for oil and gas finds. The industry has been encouraged by the discovery of the sizeable British Gas/Eastern Humble Grove Farm—site of the discovery well—for a sum



Petroleum oil field at Wyly Farm, Dorset, and by the smaller Humble Grove discovery, near Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Carless Capel and Leonard, partners in the Humble Grove field, said recoverable reserves could be between 16m and 21m barrels. Additional drilling on a possible eastern extension of the field could result in a doubling of recoverable reserves.

A field with 40m barrels would be small by North Sea standards.

(BP's Forties Field contained 1.8bn barrels of recoverable oil) but it would still be an attractive prospect given current oil prices and comparatively low development costs.

Carless is conducting a seismic test of the area to help it reinterpret previous geological data. It is also preparing to start a production test with a pump fixed on the discovery well. Early next year the group, which also includes Hudson Oil, Cambrian Exploration (Candecca), St Joe Petroleum and CanDel, plans to drill appraisal wells.

Other exploration ventures planned by Carless include a well at Yarnbury, Wiltshire, to be started next month, and a well at Rogate, Sussex, to be drilled early next year.

Texaco to share cost of exploration

By Our Energy Editor

A GROUP of North Sea exploration companies, led by British Petroleum, has agreed to share with a neighbouring licensee—Texaco—the costs and revenue from the Buchan Field development.

The Buchan Field in the BP group's block 21/1a, 95 miles north east of Aberdeen, is thought to spill into Texaco's 20/5a concession. It is currently estimated that 5.134418 per cent of the reserves lie in Texaco's block.

As a result Texaco will have to pay its share of development costs—£9.55m out of a total bill of £185m. It will also receive the same percentage of revenue from the oil production due to begin in November.

BP said the percentages were not final. They may be altered in the light of new field data, including information gained by Texaco when it sinks a well in block 20/5a later this year.

The exact size of the field is unknown, in view of the unusual nature of the reservoir rock. Industry estimates are that the field could contain between 50m and 200m barrels.

Working interests in block 21/1a are: BP (54.166 per cent), Sir Joe Petroleum (14 per cent), CanDel Petroleum (14 per cent), Transworld Petroleum (14 per cent), Gas and Oil Acreage (2.5 per cent), Charterhall (0.33 per cent) and Lochiel Exploration (1 per cent).

NCB launches campaign for plant conversions

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

THE NATIONAL Coal Board (NCB) is conducting a lobbying campaign among MPs aimed at securing Government backing for the conversion of British industries from oil to coal.

The campaign is intended to reinforce the representations which the board is making among Energy Department officials.

It hopes that the outbreak of a new Middle East conflict will make both industry and politicians more receptive to its arguments about the strategic advantages of investing heavily in conversion of oil and gas fired plant to coal.

In a document circulated recently among MPs, the board suggested that Britain should copy the examples of France and West Germany, whose governments are giving financial support to industrial companies who carry out expensive reboiling projects. Such schemes have no direct British equivalents.

The NCB has been talking also to a consortium of UK banks about setting up a fund specifically to provide capital for industrial conversion to coal.

In France, the aid scheme for energy conservation is being extended to cover conversions to coal. It could mean a

capital grant equivalent to £25 per annual tonne of oil saved through the conversion.

At present, coal supplies

only 11m tonnes, or 13.4 per cent, of the 82m tonnes of coal equivalent used annually by UK industry (other than iron and steel).

Despite rising oil and gas prices, most industries still find conversion to coal too expensive.

A new boiler plant or a major rehabilitation for a medium-sized consumer using 5-10,000 tonnes a year could cost anything from £250,000 to £500,000.

For big process plants using 500,000 tonnes of coal equivalent used annually by UK

Prudential profile No. 5: Kenneth Fleet reporting

Kenneth Fleet, leading financial journalist and City Editor of the Sunday Express, talks to Eric Chapman, Prudential Chief Surveyor, and Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Corby District Council, on site in Corby.

"On site with the Prudential at Corby, I find a sign of hope for a town's future."

The Prudential is the largest property investor in the United Kingdom, with a portfolio currently valued around the £2 billion mark. How does the Prudential handle its responsibilities as a developer and a landlord? Kenneth Fleet visits Corby, where the Prudential, in partnership with Corby District Council, are about to construct a series of small factory units on a 2.5 acre site on the Oakley Industrial Estate. In the first phase, the Prudential and the District Council will be developing a total of some 50,000 sq. ft. in units of approximately 1,500 to 3,300 sq. ft.

Kenneth Fleet: The steel industry is going through a difficult time, and nowhere more than in Corby. You are financing new factories in what threatens to become a depressed area. Why?

Eric Chapman: (Prudential) Industry in this country needs a lot of re-equipping, and that includes the factories—which we are building in many other places—to house it. Why did we come to Corby? Primarily, because we think this scheme will be a good long term investment for our policyholders' funds. That must be our first consideration.

Kenneth Fleet: The steel industry is going through a difficult time, and nowhere more than in Corby. You are financing new factories in what threatens to become a depressed area. Why?

Fleet: When did the Prudential decide to become involved?

Chapman: Corby District Council put this

2½ acre development out to tender. Our Surveyors produced a report in February and it was approved by the Prudential Board in March. We hope to start work on the ground very soon, and to have factory units available as soon as possible.

Fleet: Mr Chapman, what is your role?

Chapman: My responsibilities cover all the Prudential's property assets. I have a first-class estate department with two deputy chief surveyors, about 100 qualified surveyors, architects, engineers and so on.

Fleet: You are not merely property investors but developers, managers, architects....

Chapman: Our philosophy, ever since we started investing in property in 1864, has been to do the whole job ourselves because we think that a landlord should have a very close relationship with his tenants. We want our tenants to feel that they can always approach us if they have any problems.

Fleet: You made a fast decision on Corby. Is this characteristic of the property department of a large insurance company?

Chapman: We, certainly, are geared to give prompt decisions. Where the issues are more complex, or involve very large sums of money, and we have to go higher up the Prudential scale, a very quick decision is always available.

Fleet: How far is Corby Council involved?

Duncan Hall (Corby District Council):

We wanted to provide small advance factory units at Oakley Hay, starting with 20 units of from

1,500 sq. ft. to 3,000-3,500 sq. ft., to attract the smaller businesses in the locality. With the help of our agents, we have already reserved half of them for engineering, servicing, manufacturing and warehousing. We see our involvement as a partnership with the Prudential. We are responsible for the management and for letting the units, and Drivers Jonas are acting for us.

Fleet: Is it a good idea to have this kind of co-operation between a local authority and a commercial company?

Hall: It's essential, in terms of the need to provide development in a place like Corby, where unemployment is likely to exceed 25%. Corby needs renewed confidence in itself.

Fleet: Has the Prudential's arrival stimulated interest among other companies?

Hall: Yes, indeed. The Prudential's willingness to invest in Corby shows the confidence of a major investor in the town's future.

The Prudential's annual report is available from the Publicity Department, Prudential Assurance Company Limited, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

Prudential
You don't know the half of it.

UK NEWS

Treasury committee to summon Chancellor

By Elinor Goodman

THE CHANCELLOR and the Governor of the Bank of England are to be summoned to appear before the all-party committee on the Treasury, to explain what chance there is of the Government achieving its monetary targets.

At a special private session of the committee yesterday, held to review events since the beginning of the Parliamentary recess, the general feeling seemed to be that the Government's monetary policies were badly off course.

There was considerable pessimism about the chances of getting the strategy back on target. The meeting was held at the request of both Labour and Conservative MPs alarmed by the signs of the deepening recession and of the jump in the money supply this summer in particular.

After reviewing the published data with their advisers, they decided to ask for more private papers from the Treasury.

They also agreed it was essential that they should see the Chancellor and the Governor again as soon as possible.

The committee, which has already clashed once with the Chancellor, has previously avoided an examination of policy. But some members believe that such restraint will be difficult to maintain.

The Chancellor is likely to reassure the committee that the money supply figures, although above the target rate at present, will come into line as public sector borrowing falls later this year and bank lending to companies decreases.

But the committee is likely to ask why the figures have gone astray and who is responsible.

Tax charges

THE TAX charge on cash held in building society investors' accounts will be around £1.37bn in 1980 not £13.7m as stated in yesterday's edition of the Financial Times. But for changes in the tax structure announced in the last Budget, the bill would have been nearer £13.1bn, not £13.1m as stated.

THE COST of Britain's £1bn nuclear weapon Chevaline had risen four-fold during its five years of development, according to a book on nuclear weapons published today by Chatham House.

Dr. Lawrence Freedman, head of policy studies at the Royal Institute for International Affairs, says the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston, got into serious difficulties in managing the project.

Chevaline, a new "front end" for the 64 Polaris missiles in Britain's strategic nuclear deterrent, was approved by the incoming Labour Government early in 1974, at an estimated cost of £250m.

By early 1976 the cost had risen to £450m and by mid-1977 to £800m.

The project was finally extricated from its troubles by Mr. David Cardwell, who became director of Aldermaston in 1978. Mr. Cardwell

has subsequently been appointed chief of the procurement executive at the Ministry of Defence.

Chevaline is a complicated package of liquid-fuelled rockets, some equipped with nuclear warheads and others designed as electronic decoys to confuse an enemy anti-ballistic missile defence system. British Aerospace was closely involved in its development.

Mr. Francis Pym, Secretary

for Defence, announced in January that the Chevaline project had been successfully completed at a cost of £1bn. It is being fitted to the 16 Polaris missiles of HMS Renown, the first of the four Polaris vessels to be updated with the new weapon.

Chevaline is designed to serve throughout the 1980s until Britain is ready to introduce the U.S. Trident missile with a new British nuclear warhead, in a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

About one third of the cost of Chevaline has been spent in the U.S., Dr. Freedman estimates. This includes five underground nuclear tests, from May, 1974, when Britain re-started nuclear weapon testing after an interval of nearly nine years.

It also includes the cost of eight test firings of updated Polaris missiles from Cape Canaveral in 1977-79. Dr. Freedman believes that the nuclear weapon itself was less than the mechanisms for manoeuvring the Polaris front-end in space and guiding it towards its target. But he adds that there has arisen a practical resource problem at Aldermaston, which is still recovering from the closure of some capacity and the resignation of key staff after a plutonium scare in 1978.

Britain and Nuclear Weapons by Laurence Freedman, Macmillan, £3.25, £6.00 pb.

Lambard, Page 14.

'Appalling parsimony' of UK aid attacked

By Peter Riddell in Bermuda

THE BRITISH Government's attitude towards the Third World and the cutback in the UK's overseas aid programme were criticised sharply by Mr. Shridagh Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, at the start of the two-day annual meeting in Bermuda of Commonwealth Finance Ministers.

The clash has arisen specifically out of the UK's decision to cut its contribution to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, but the criticism has broadened out to cover the UK's general approach on Third World issues.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is chairing the meeting, yesterday quickly moved to try to take the edge of any controversy, while defending the British position.

He emphasised that the conquest of poverty depended not just on the distribution of wealth but also on its creation.

In his opening address, Mr. Ramphal at one point endorsed criticisms of the "appalling parsimony" of the rich countries, but in his reply Sir Geoffrey said "that what seemed to some like parsimony reflected the differing contributions of different member countries, with different

The conflicts on the issues of the rich and the poor of countries is likely to form the theme of most of the discussions in Washington next week at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Before yesterday's meeting, Mr. Ramphal said he was "surprised and saddened" by the British move to reduce its contribution to the Commonwealth Fund by 24 per cent from last year's level of £3.75m to a ceiling of £3m.

He contrasted this action with the decision of other Commonwealth countries, notably Nigeria, to raise their contributions to the fund, which promotes project finance and the transfer of technology within the Commonwealth.

The issue is an extremely complicated one, since Britain had traditionally financed around 30 per cent of the expenditure of Commonwealth institutions, but last year for exceptional reasons (partly because of a shortfall in the contributions of other countries) the share rose to 40 per cent.

Britain's decision to cut the nominal amount it contributes has been regretted by other countries, who would have kept the fund's budget at £11.8m this year.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Mr. Ramphal several times criticised the British approach on this and other questions without mentioning the UK by name. He parised, for example, Canada's announcement last week of resumed growth in its official aid.

Mr. Ramphal painted a very gloomy picture of the outlook for the world economy, and appealed for action next week in Washington to increase the resources of the World Bank.

Nuclear weapon cost soars to £1bn

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

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Lambard, Page 14.

Castle diaries scorn 'alien' Callaghan

BY JOHN HUNT

MRS. BARBARA CASTLE, in her diaries published today has harsh words for Mr. James Callaghan, who sacked her from her post as Social Services Secretary in 1976, when he became Prime Minister.

She attributes her dismissal to Sir Harold Wilson "suddenly pulling the rug out from under everyone's feet" by his unexpected resignation of the Premiership in the spring of that year.

This, she says, opened the door of Number 10 for "the election of an alien Right-winger" as Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party.

Mrs. Castle, who is now leader of the British Labour group in the European Parliament, discloses that she backed Mr. Michael Foot against Mr. Callaghan for the Premiership, with Mr. Denis Healey as her second choice.

When Mr. Foot became deputy leader, she made it clear to him she wanted to stay on as Secretary of State until the pay beds legislation went through and she could go with dignity, "not just sloughed off in a mass reshuffle".

But almost immediately Mr. Callaghan sent for Mrs. Castle, then 64, and told her he wanted her resignation to reduce the average age of the Cabinet.

Mrs. Castle refused the Prime Minister's request for a letter stating she was resigning to make way for someone younger.

The appointment of Mr. David Ennals to succeed her provoked another bitter entry in her diary.

"I am deeply hurt by Jim's cavalier discarding of me, like so much old junk. I know—and have always known—that I am one of the best ministers in this Government and certainly the toughest fighter for our party's policies. I am at the peak of my powers. To turn me out for Ennals—really!"

She has scathing remarks about other Cabinet colleagues. Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn is a "maddening mixture of the bogus theoretician and the genuine visionary."

She describes Mr. Healey's wind-up speech in the economic debate of March 1976 as "arrogant, offensive and near-hysterical" and comments: "He must have gone off his rocker."

Dr. David Owen is credited with a great deal of natural charm; spoilt by "sudden flashes of insolent arrogance—just like Roy Jenkins."

The Castle Diaries, 1974-76, by Barbara Castle, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.95 will be reviewed in the FT on Saturday.

● The Labour Party is criticised in a young Fabian Society pamphlet published today for lacking a coherent philosophy on wealth creation in industry.

The author, Mark Goyder, a personnel manager in the paper industry, says the party programme makes much of investment and planning and the strengthening of the trade unions.

Socialism tomorrow. Fresh thinking for the Labour Party. Young Fabian Pamphlet No. 49, 90p.

One Doulton closure is halted

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

ONE OF five companies planned to be closed in the Royal Doulton Group, the china and glassware subsidiary of S. Pearson, is to be saved.

About 200 workers will keep their jobs at Adderley floral works, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, following talks between management and unions.

Two weeks ago Royal Doulton announced a 10 per cent reduction in the workforce—a cut of between 900 and 1,000 jobs—because of depressed world markets. There has been short-time working in the workforce for several months. This will continue.

Three tableware factories will be closed, as well as crystal glass plant at Tupton, near Derby.

About 7,000 workers at three London Brick Company production yards in Cambridgeshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire are to go on to short-time. Production is to be cut by 20 per cent because of the recession in house-building, at its lowest level for 30 years.

A work-sharing scheme is being agreed with unions and management. The company said there were no plans to cut jobs.

Up to 60 jobs are to be created at Tootal's factory at Newtown, Mid-Wales, over the next 10 months, as a result of the transfer of handkerchief manufacture from Manchester.

The Newtown factory, which manufactures Total ties, scarves and cravats, has already taken on some 70 additional staff since the New Year. It is expected that by next June the labour force will reach 250.

Mansfield Shoe Company, part of the Norvic Securities group, has received a "late influx" of orders for women's autumn footwear. Its 450 workers are to go on to full-time working at the start of next month for the first time since April.

Only two weeks ago Norvic Securities announced a group pre-tax loss of £550,000 for the first half of this year. It was revealed that the Mansfield women's footwear factory had made an operating loss of more than £300,000 in the period, with losses still being suffered. Falling export orders for the EEC, because of the strong pound and the UK recession, had led to an 80 per cent drop in Mansfield's autumn order-book.

Norvic said yesterday that the revival in orders appeared to have been confined to the women's footwear sector, with most of the demand coming from the domestic market.

This latest initiative comes after several attempts to save

Peugeot reorganisation threatens Talbot jobs

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

PEUGEOT, the French motor group, yesterday announced the effective dismantling of its Talbot subsidiary as part of a far-reaching reorganisation of the group aimed at halting its dramatic sales decline this year.

Explaining the change of policy at a Press conference yesterday, M. Jean-Paul Parayre, chairman of Peugeot, made it clear that these measures are likely to be followed by redundancies in the Talbot manufacturing operation both in the UK and in France.

The move means a virtually entire reversal of the plans developed by Peugeot when it bought Talbot—the former Chrysler Europe—only two years ago.

Contrary to Peugeot's aims at that time, the Talbot distribution network is to lose its separate identity and be merged in with the Peugeot dealership organisation.

About 7,000 workers at three London Brick Company production yards in Cambridgeshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire are to go on to short-time. Production is to be cut by 20 per cent because of the recession in house-building, at its lowest level for 30 years.

On Tuesday BSC turned off the power supply which was necessary to keep the Consett blastfurnaces intact. The consortium had failed to meet the BSC ultimatum that it must identify itself, provide evidence

of its credit worthiness and agree to start meting the cost of maintaining the plant.

The corporation considered that it could not justify spending some £226,000 a week to keep furnaces warm in the vague hope of a rescue. The consortium was said to consist of 11 businesses which intended to form themselves into a company called Northern Industrial Group (Holdings). His plan was to slim the Consett workforce by about 800 to around 2,700 and—with the consequent improved productivity—sell billets at highly competitive prices.

The failure of the consortium's members to identify themselves, however, reduced confidence in their ability to support the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and Consett workers' representatives, union leaders did not rate highly the chances of its succeeding.

Attention at Consett will turn to the long and difficult search for new jobs in an area where BSC was the only large employer.

Men and Matters, Page 20.

Plan to save 200 Stone-Platt jobs

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

A JOINT rescue plan has been put together by Stone-Platt, the loss-making textile machinery manufacturer, and Oldham Borough Council to save 200 of the 850 jobs due to go when the company's Oldham factory closes in December.

Oldham Borough Council wants to buy Stone-Platt's Hartford factory for £1.25m and lease back a portion of the factory to the company. The rest of the building will be adapted.

This latest initiative comes after several attempts to save

the 12-acre Hartford complex which makes textile machinery. Plans to transfer to Hartford the manufacture of three other products—transmissions, boilers and container refrigeration—collapsed earlier this year.

This would have concentrated textile machinery operations at its Plat Saco Lowell subsidiary in Bolton and Accrington, each employing more than 1,000 people. The idea was abandoned because of poor demand for these products.

Yesterday the council said that 100,000 sq ft of the factory

would be leased to Stone-Platt for £95,000 a year to continue to make transmissions—used in a wide variety of products including textile machinery.

Demand for transmissions has been affected by the UK recession and the low level of activity in the group's textile plants. The company believes transmission manufacture would remain viable on a small scale.

The council said interest was already being shown in the proposal to offer remaining factory space.

Scientists investigate nitrate 'risk' in water

BY ROBIN PAULEY

CONCENTRATIONS of nitrate in water have been slowly but steadily rising in recent years—and research is under way to check the unproven theory that the chemical is associated with an increased prevalence of certain cancers.

The latest report of the Standing Technical Advisory Com-

mittee on Water Quality says that the increases in nitrate have been particularly marked in rivers in southern and eastern England and with boreholes in eastern England.

Research is also continuing on the problem of lead in drinking water supplies, the cost of water treatment and lead pipe replacement.

The number of consumers receiving added fluoride in their drinking water has remained static during the last two years—1.5m in England and Wales and 50,000 in Scotland.

A wide range of chemicals—some natural, some man-made—appear in trace levels in water. Recent research has shown that during the purification of water,

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UK NEWS

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Tighter controls on food sales, urge health officers

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TIGHTER CONTROLS on food sales, including compulsory licensing of food shops, was called for yesterday by the Environmental Health Officers Association.

The association's annual report says that with more food being prepared in bulk, one slip in hygiene standards could lead to nationwide problems.

"Often, one of the problems in larger food premises is that for the sake of maintaining a high throughput, hygiene practices are short-circuited or ignored. It is time that these short cuts in hygiene are stopped," says the report.

About 120 food premises had closed voluntarily last year after being advised by the association of a possible risk to public health. A further 18 were closed under an emergency order.

The association suggested that official food poisoning

figures for 1979 were likely to be the worst for 10 years, although the figures would reflect only a tiny proportion of cases since many people with mild symptoms did not consult their doctors.

Local authorities received more than 20,000 complaints last year about the standard of food bought by consumers.

The association believes some form of licensing, or prior approval, was needed for premises selling "high-risk foods" to reduce dangers to the public.

One "very serious omission" in the present hygiene laws is that for the sake of maintaining a high throughput, hygiene practices are short-circuited or ignored. It is time that these short cuts in hygiene are stopped," says the report.

About 120 food premises had closed voluntarily last year after being advised by the association of a possible risk to public health. A further 18 were closed under an emergency order.

The association suggested that official food poisoning

criticisms of overcharging in the hotel and catering industry were denied yesterday by Mr. Derek Gladwell, president of the Hotel Catering and Institutional Management Association.

Mr. Gladwell said the rise in average return on capital from 5.6 per cent to 11.8 per cent between 1976 and 1979 was not excessive.

The industry had managed to avoid becoming one which "pays such high wages that we risk becoming others on to the vicious spiral of high prices, diminishing returns and mass unemployment of the workforce," said Mr. Gladwell.

"We are still able to carry on our businesses without clamouring for Government aid. Particularly in the catering industry, the use of new technology had contributed to greater efficiency, better standards and the maintenance of price levels," he said.

Elaine Williams writes: Public

Tory MP criticises Thatcher on quangos

By ELLIOTT GOODMAN

THE PRIME MINISTER was criticised yesterday for failing to take adequate action against quangos by the MP who claims first to have alerted Mrs. Thatcher and the Conservative Party to the proliferation of such quasi-autonomous bodies.

Mr. Philip Holland, the Conservative MP for Carlton and "quango-cutter," said the Government's record on cutting bureaucracy during its first year in office had been disappointing.

Mrs. Thatcher had failed to display the "ruthless killer instinct" he and the party had expected.

According to Mr. Holland's latest researches, published by the Adam Smith Institute, the Government has managed to abolish only 290 of the 3,068 official committees in existence. A further 707 should be shut immediately, he argued.

Prime candidates for the axe, he suggested, would be the water authorities—attacked by delegates at this year's Conservative Party conference—the various nationalised industry consumer councils, the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Also on Mr. Holland's increasingly ambitious death list are the National Enterprise Board, British Shipbuilders and the British Steel Corporation as well as hundreds of little-known organisations like the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine, and the Treasury Trove Reviewing Committee.

New quangos have started since the Conservatives came to power, he pointed out.

The Quango Death List, the Adam Smith Institute, 50 Westminster Mansions, Little Smith Street, London SW7.

BA to close Victoria air terminal check-in

BY MICHAEL DONNE AND LYNTON MCALPIN

BRITISH AIRWAYS is ending its passenger check-in facilities at London's Victoria air terminal from November 14, and will also drop its own bus service to Heathrow Airport.

From that date London Transport will run two new services—one linking all three terminals at Heathrow with Victoria and hotels in the Cromwell Road area, and the second linking Heathrow with hotels in the Bayswater/Paddington area.

British Airways said yesterday the number of passengers using the check-in and bus facilities had been declining rapidly over recent years. The decision to end these facilities would save more than £750,000 a year.

The buses would have soon needed replacing, at a cost of £1.3m, at a time when the airline needs to reduce its costs in every direction.

Since the Underground rail link into Heathrow opened in 1977, millions of passengers have changed their travel habits.

In 1975-76, the Victoria buses carried 470,000 passengers out of Heathrow, and another 680,000 into town. In 1978-79,

BA said yesterday its decision to close both check-in and bus facilities at Victoria had been taken because studies showed "no evidence of any likely improvements in the trend of declining usage."

Fares for the new airport services will be £2 single for adults and £1 single for children.

The current London Trans-

port single fare by underground train from Victoria to Heathrow Central is £1.60. However, the new bus services are likely to be more suitable for passengers with heavy luggage.

The fare levels are designed to "improve London Transport's financial results," it said yesterday.

London Transport said the new services must at least break even.

Scottish-U.S. venture

BY LISA WOOD

SCOTTISH Heritable Trust, the property company and wholesale distributor of floor coverings and hairdressing supplies, has signed a deal with the U.S. hair appliance manufacturer.

A new joint company is to be formed in the UK with a capital base of £300,000, to distribute the appliances, including hairdryers, produced by Sawayne Industries of Florida. Sawayne Industries increased its sales between 1973 and 1979

from \$4m (£1.6m) to \$42m and, during the same period, its pre-tax profit rose from \$200,000 to \$5m. Scottish Heritable's taxable profits improved from £1.09m to £1.35m in 1979.

The UK company said yesterday that it was satisfied there would be a substantial market for these new products. Before the new venture, the company's hairdressing division only distributed to hairdressers and their suppliers, not retail sales outlets.

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FT12

UK NEWS - LABOUR

Reduction in strikes continues in August

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

A CONTINUING decline this summer in the number of strikes affecting Britain's industries and services is highlighted in an analysis of stoppages last month published yesterday by the Department of Employment.

Provisional figures for August in the latest issue of the Employment Gazette put the number of new stoppages at 45—compared with 64—which began in July. The previous minimum was 84 in December last year.

The number of working days lost—the fewest at 104,000—compares with 176,000 in the previous month.

The biggest stoppage start-

ing in August involved a five-week strike by 425 workers at a grain milling plant after the dismissal of four night shift workers for allegedly sleeping on duty.

The other two main stoppages related to pay, however. A strike by 200 workers at a Birmingham brewery followed a breakdown in wage negotiations, and a further 2,000 brewery workers elsewhere in the Midlands stopped work when employers proposed redundancies and suspension of guaranteed wage level agreements.

The aggregate of 104,000 working days lost also includes 63,000 lost through stoppages continuing from July.

The decline in stoppages over the past two months has reduced the number of work-

ing days lost since last January to 11,396,000—a drop of 1,057,000 compared with the January to August period last year.

A further Department of Employment analysis of industrial action trends shows that 64 large industrial disputes—out of a total 50,000 stoppages—accounted for 46 per cent of all working days lost through disputes over the 20 years in the UK.

The survey of major stoppages between 1968 and 1979 points to these disputes as accounting for most of the sharp increase recorded in days lost through disputes between the 1960s and 1970s.

Insurance staff fear clashes on pay parity

By Nick Garnett, Labour Staff

INDUSTRIAL relations in insurance companies will worsen next year because of repeal of the Employment Protection Act, according to the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

The union, with more than 70,000 members in insurance, has just completed a survey of wages and conditions in 50 companies. It shows considerable variation in standards.

The union will use this information for comparator wage claims, linked to recognition claims in some of those companies where the union is not recognised.

Mr. Peter Kennedy, the union's national officer for the insurance industry, said scrapping of section 11 of the Act, dealing with union recognition, and schedule 11, on pay and conditions, "removed remedies for these problems."

Greater confrontation between staff and management would result, particularly where pay and conditions at one company could be shown to be markedly poorer than at similar companies.

The union said yesterday that scrapping section 11 would severely worsen the climate within managements, regarding their recognition of unions.

The union said yesterday that a dispute over recognition and pay at the National Employers Mutual General Insurance in the summer indicated problems likely to occur elsewhere in the industry.

Ships' officers lodge new wage claim

BY NICK GARNETT, LABOUR STAFF

SHIP OWNERS yesterday received a claim for substantial rises from unions representing their officers who are seeking to restore some of the differentials eroded by the last settlement for ratings.

The claim on behalf of the 36,000 officers and cadets also includes substantial improvements in leave and improved overtime rates.

The National Union of Seafarers last week submitted a similar claim for ratings although the union is specifically seeking consolidation of a

£5 efficiency payment as well as substantial rises in pay and overtime rates.

At the last settlement, the officers secured a deal worth 17.5 per cent on money but 19.5 per cent on the overall wage bill when improved leave was taken into account. The ratings received 24 per cent.

The ratings are understood to be looking for an overall deal close to the present retail price index. If the four unions representing officers—who are still ranked by last year's deals—are determined to achieve a

settlement above that they will be very much at odds with the employers.

The General Council of British Shipping undertook yesterday to consult its members and reply in the first week of November. This will be after the November 1 settlement date for the officers, who are reluctant this year to conclude a deal before the ratings. The ratings' settlement date is January 1.

The employers, who have seen their competitiveness badly eroded, said yesterday that unless settlements were

governed by commercial realities, there would be further losses of ships and jobs.

The competitiveness of the UK shipowners has been weakened by the strong pound. The employers told the unions yesterday that it had also deteriorated as a result of inflation and recent wage rises.

According to the employers' figures, pay for UK officers and ratings has risen 50 per cent in the past three years. This compares with considerably less than 40 per cent in Norway, 23 per cent in West Germany and 13.5 per cent in Holland.

APPOINTMENTS**Part-time members at British Steel**

THE BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY has announced details of management changes arising from its merger with SELECTION TRUST.

Selection Trust becomes the operating company for BP's worldwide minerals activities on behalf of BP's existing subsidiary, BP MINERALS INTERNATIONAL.

The former managing director of BPML, Mr. Ted Hammington, becomes an executive director of Selection Trust. Two board members of BP Trading, Mr. Frank Kickwood and Mr. William Grassick, as well as a senior BP manager, Mr. James Ross, also join the Selection Trust board.

Their appointments were foreseen at the time of the BP offer for the shares of Selection Trust.

In addition, Dr. William Hancock becomes exploration director of Selection Trust. He was appointed group exploration consultant to Selection Trust in 1972, having joined the company's organisation as field consulting geologist in Australia in 1968.

The chairman, and chief executive of Selection Trust, Mr. John Du Cane, becomes the chief executive of BPML. Mr. Laurence Cook, the managing director of Selection Trust, has also been appointed to the board of BPML.

Mr. H. J. Hinves, Mr. A. M. Macleod-Smith, Mr. R. H. MacWilliams, Mr. R. V. Rumble and Mr. E. C. Wharton-Tigar have resigned from the board of Selection Trust.

The Secretary for Industry has appointed Mr. K. G. H. Binning, an Under-Secretary at the Department of Industry, and Mr. T. U. Burgner, an Under-Secretary at the Treasury, to be part-time members of the BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION. They replace the previous civil servant part-time members on the board, Mr. S. J. Gross, who has retired from the Department of Industry, and Mr. N. J. Monk who has moved to other duties in the Treasury. Mr. Gross has been made a part-time member of the corporation for three years from November 11.

Mr. Binning has succeeded Mr. Gross as head of the iron and steel division of the Department of Industry. He was previously head of the regional support and inward investment division of the Department. Mr. Monck has replaced Mr. Monk as head of the public enterprises group in the Treasury. He was secretary to the National Economic Development Council.

Mr. Bruno Roux de Bezieux and Mr. Nicholas Cobbold have been appointed directors of WORMS INVESTMENTS and WORMS (UK), of the inter-

national banking, investment and shipping insurance group, WORMS AND CIE, Paris.

Mr. R. C. Wheeler-Bennett has been appointed to the Board of THOMAS BORTHWICK AND SONS and has been elected deputy chairman. He retires as general manager Europe of the AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANK after 14 years'



Mr. R. C. Wheeler-Bennett

service having been executive director of that bank until its change of domicile to Australia in 1976. Previously he was with the First National City Bank of New York.

Mr. T. G. Williams, chief manager International, London, of the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, is to take over as general manager Europe of ANZ on December 1 in place of Mr. Wheeler-Bennett.

WILLIS FABER has made the following group appointments: Mr. Guy Norrie, a director of Willis Faber and Dumas (Agencies) and Mr. R. Banner, an executive director of Willis Faber and Dumas (UK). New divisional directors at Willis Faber and Dumas Limited are Mr. M. J. J. Faber (aviation) and Mr. R. H. Close-Smith and Mr. D. J. Vaisey (maritime).

Sir Peter Ramsbotham has been appointed a director of LLOYDS BANK INTERNATIONAL from January 1, 1981 and at the same time will become a regional director of the southern regional board of Lloyds Bank. The regional board sits at Guildford under the chairmanship of Lord Beeching.

Sir Peter was Ambassador to the U.S. from 1974-77 and he recently retired as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda.

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Jail officers plan action over shift work row**Prior urges caution over Employment Act**

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

PRISON OFFICERS will be told to take industrial action in a long-running row over shift work. The men's leaders said yesterday the campaign could be "catastrophic" for prisoners.

The move was agreed yesterday by the executive committee of the Prison Officers Association, covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It follows an association meeting with Mr. William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, on Monday night at which their claim for arbitration over a meal-break payment demand was turned down. The executive will now call a delegate conference to explain to the membership its plans for industrial action.

"For the 44,000 prison population the effect might well be catastrophic," said Mr. Colin Steel, association chairman.

"We would hope that the Home Secretary and the Prison Department will go to arbitration to determine this once and for all. Our action has been decided by responsibly-minded people, but it is obviously going to mean some restriction in prison activities."

He would not be drawn on possible effects of industrial action. In the past it has meant workshops being closed, a halt to prison industries and building programmes, and a limit on movements from prisons.

Government fears of confrontation with trade unions are likely to have intensified following the united move at the TUC conference in Brighton earlier this month to launch a militant campaign against the new law.

Mr. Prior said: "It is a seductive and dangerous misconception that the law can produce good industrial relations."

Mr. Terry Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, told the conference that he did not want

a repetition of the conflict over the 1971 Industrial Relations Act which his union had fought with serious financial consequences.

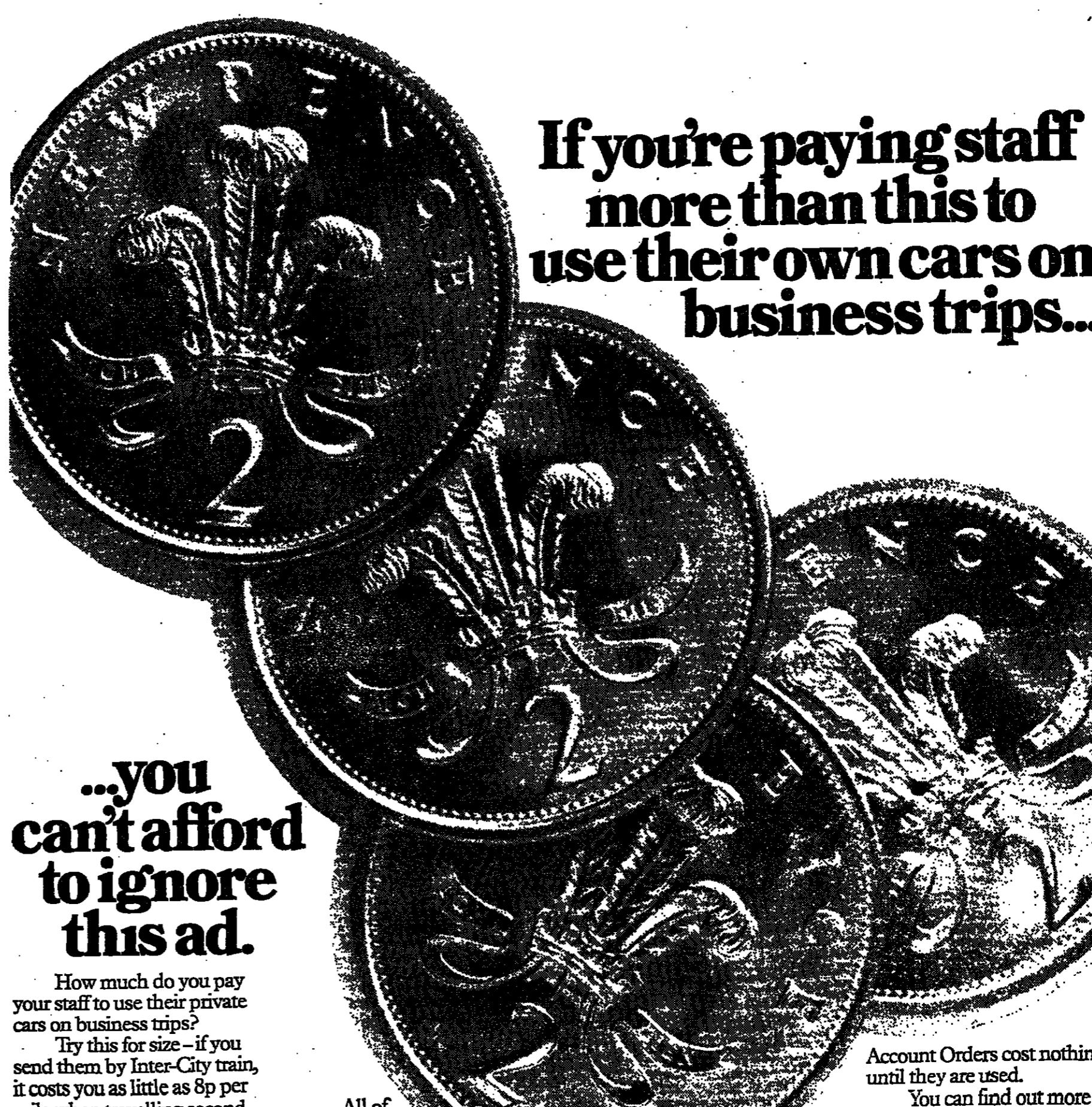
The union was not asking its members to oppose the Act, against the law and it was anxious to join in a tripartite dialogue with Government and CBI provided trade unions had the opportunity to talk about the economy and not just wages.

He feared the Employment Act, however, would create a climate in which trade unions appeared to be persecuted and an excuse for creating conflict.

Members of the TUC's employment policy and organisation committee are to meet Mr. Prior today to express strong opposition to the draft code of practice on picketing and the "closed shop" issued under Section Three of the Employment Act.

The all-party Commons committee on employment yesterday called for a postponement in the publication of the Government's Code of Practice on picketing and the closed shop so as to give more time to investigate the proposals.

Mr. Prior said: "It is a publication until after October 21 so as to give the committee a chance to probe Mr. Prior himself further and to take evidence from the TUC and the CBI."



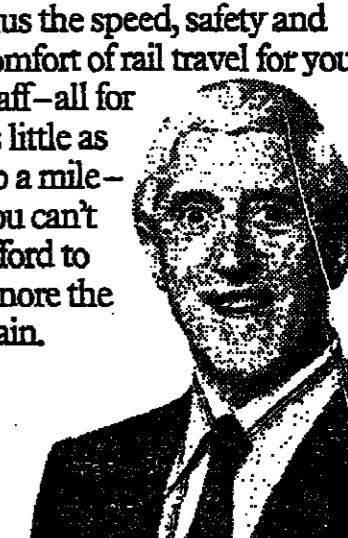
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Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND ALAN CANE

RADIO

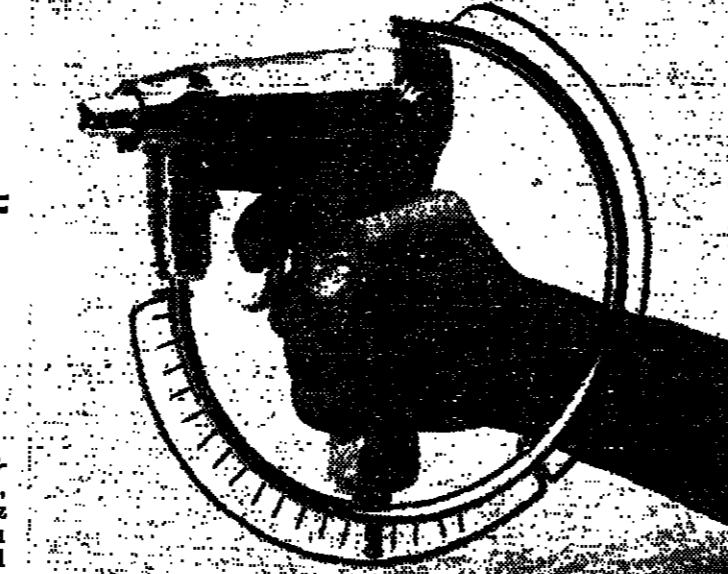
Smart radios know their channels

CONSUMER RADIO products are usually only described on this page when some unusual technology has been brought to bear. It was perhaps only a matter of time before the all-pervasive microprocessor appeared in domestic radios and news has now come from Sony of the ICF 2001 receiver with processor controlled tuning and synthesised frequency generation in its local oscillator circuit.

What this means for the user is that the conventional tuning knob has vanished, to be replaced by buttons which can be used to inch the tuned frequency up and down at various rates or to select tuned stations that have been set by the user and remembered by the micro.

The receiver can be made to look over a specific part of the band to find a station, the precise frequency of which is not known. High and low frequencies are entered by button and the unit will then scan in 3 kHz steps (AM) or 100 kHz steps for FM until a station is found, or continuously until the set limit is reached.

However, manual tuning is



This pneumatic stud nailing tool has been devised for the fixing of decorative studs in furniture. Available from Forpack of Romsey, Hants. (0794 515522), the tool is capable of firing 6, 8 or 10 mm decorative studs from an open-ended rotary magazine which can be loaded with up to 50 studs at a time. The studs can be fired at the rate of 50 per minute by a skilled operator; it is claimed. A compressed air supply of 90 lb per square inch is required and the gun can therefore be operated from standard factory air lines. The company, which is a division of Paprapak of Hull, also supplies decorative studs in a variety of finishes.

COMPONENTS

Measures the flow

VERY LOW rates of flow in liquid or gas systems can now be monitored with a combined flow switch and indicator from C.C. Meters, Chatsworth Terrace, Harrogate (0423 69550).

The unit measures flow down to 50 cc per minute (at 20 °C) and has a maximum flow capacity of 5 litres a minute; maximum pressure rating is 20 bar or 130 bar, depending on the race.

Important characteristic of the new unit, says the company, is that it can incorporate 15 micro-switches with direct electrical connection to control

systems, remote warning lights, failsafe mechanisms, etc.

These new flow-switch indicators are suitable for gases and liquids of varied viscosity (there is no risk of straining the unit on a cold start) and their basic design allows the manufacturer to accommodate any specified viscosity and maximum flow simply by changing the taper of the nozzle. This means the full deflection of the indicator can be used on every application with no loss of accuracy.

The unit is designed for mounting in-line, and both inlet and outlet ports are 1/2 inch BSP.

COMMUNICATIONS

Small PABX monitor

MOST OF THE private automatic branch exchange (PABX) call monitoring equipments can only be applied economically to the larger exchanges although the principle of phone use optimisation applies to everyone.

Now, a system has been made available for use with PABX 10 exchange lines and 48 extensions by Rack Norex, Regency House, Dedmire Road, Marlow, Bucks (06284 74511).

Based on a microprocessor the Norex system monitors and prints out details of all outgoing calls, including extension number, date, time, duration, number dialled and the cost.

Approved by British Telecom, the system will identify waste-use-of-telephones and offers a complete analysis of calls. It is compact (25 x 19 x 15 inches) and the printer can be located at up to 75 yards from the exchange.

A departmental print-out is also offered which shows, extension by extension, the cost incurred and the total expenditure for the department.

There are some hundreds of products in the range states the company, covering general purpose, precision and standard types. They are all self-compensating for temperature change, providing automatic compensation (over a specified range) for the thermal expansion and contraction of the most common materials to which they are applied, including steel, aluminium, titanium, austenitic steel and plastics.

The general purpose gauges for example (Series Y), are foil types embedded in a polyimide material and will operate over a temperature range of -200 to +260 deg C.

RESISTIVE FOIL and wire strain gauges in a variety of grid patterns with the grid fully encapsulated in the carrier are announced by Hottinger Baldwin Messtechnik of Darmstadt and can be obtained in the UK from Carl Schenck (UK), Stonefield Way, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0JT (01-941 5121).

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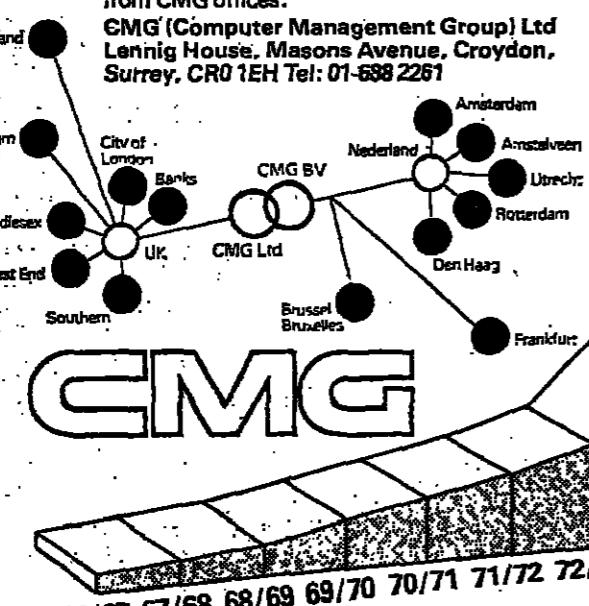
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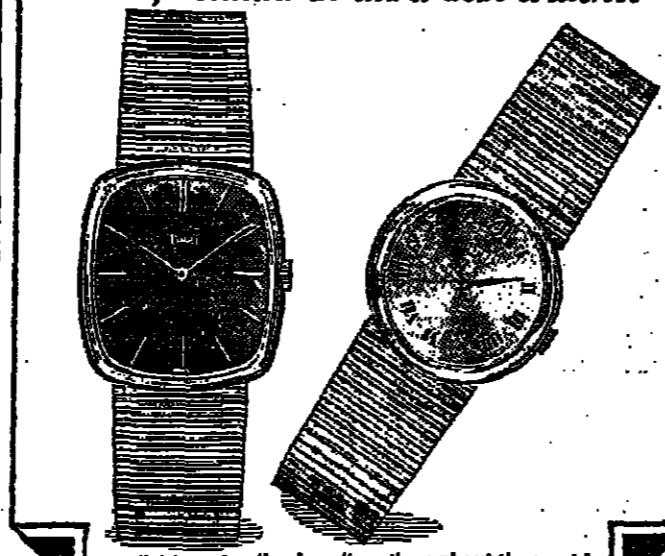
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ELECTRONICS

Metrology assisted by micro

METROLOGY becomes a radically different proposition with a television and microprocessor assisted machine from View Engineering in California, now available in the UK from BFI Electronics, 516 Walton Road, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 0QF (01-941 4086).

It consists basically of a coordinate table with motions of 8 ins (x), 4 ins (y) and an overhead television camera with 6 ins of vertical movement (z). At maximum resolution the unit can measure to 0.00005 ins in the x axis and 0.0002 ins in x and y. The machine, which costs about £65,000, is being aimed at the electronic circuit, instrument, watch and camera industries, but offers benefits where small metal parts of high accuracy are manufactured in quantity.

The massively mounted measuring system provides data for a desk-top unit which houses computer, floppy disc storage, viewing screen and controlling keyboard. The x, y and z motions are all controlled by the processor.

Clamped to the x-y table, the part to be measured is moved

into the optical field of view while the camera is moved by the z axis motor until the part is in correct focus. The camera then takes what amounts to an electronic picture of the part which is broken into 500 x 500 elements (pixels) which the associated electronics digitises according to their level of brightness. The computer now has full resolution data in its store, the resolution depending upon magnification (that is, the lens) used.

Software routines allow the operator to measure, or program the machine to measure automatically, the distance between any two points that can be defined by the digitised video matrix. A set of cross-hairs and a measurement window are electronically superimposed over the field of view on the screen, so that measuring positions can be entered. For longer measurements, the machine also uses data from accurate scaling devices on the table itself. The cross-hairs can be lined up with edges, corners, circle centres and similar points.

The machine, which is called an automatic optical micrometer (AOM), will also undertake statistical sampling, mean, minimum, maximum and standard deviation are computed after a selected number of sample measurements.

BFI believes that considerable time saving and reduction of operator fatigue will result from the use of AOM—in one case the company believes it has replaced the effort that would be needed on site separate optical projectors. But much better quality assurance should also be possible because the sampling quantity can be increased without consuming too much time.

Contract Research & Development-Contact I RD

International Research & Development Co Ltd, Fosseway, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 2YD

similar fashion angles can be measured.

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GEOFFREY CHARLISH

TEXTILES

New creed from Teximp

THROUGHOUT the world textile industry there is a trend towards the use of ever larger yarn packages. In the past it was a simple matter for a woman to lift a small bobbin of yarn and place it in position for processing, but in the case of synthetic fibres the packages are much more dense. They are much more dense. They are also steadily increased in size so the problem of handling has increased and means have had to be found to ease the task of the operatives.

This is a situation that is particularly evident in warp knitting where coiling of big packages has been necessary in order to increase efficiency of the plant which feeds the giant warp knitting machines.

One means of overcoming the problem is a new type of creel developed in Britain by Teximp at Stanley Road Trading Estate, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0DD. (01625 3900). With this the operatives are provided with an intermediate mechanically assisted loading station in which they transfer the package of yarn from the carton in which it is delivered to a multi-position carousel unit.

Data logger beats the weather

A PORTABLE, multi-channel data logger, weighing only 12.5 kg in its glass-fibre case, has been introduced by Microdata, Monitor House, Radlett, Herts (09276 3141), which claims that it is the first logging system of its size to incorporate microprocessor control.

Known as the Prolog, it is designed to meet an increasing need for automatic data acquisition over a wide range of indoor and outdoor applications. Of low power consumption, it should be particularly useful in remote locations. The lead acid battery, contained in the same case, is rechargeable from a solar cell. A standard 1/4-inch tape cartridge is used as a data recording medium, though the instrument can function as a self-contained 20-channel data acquisition and logging system.

Where more input channels are needed, the capacity can be extended by one or two add-on units, each capable of carrying

up to 40 modules, thus giving a maximum of 100 channels.

Under microprocessor control, every input channel can be assigned to any one of five independent time-bases, each of which can be programmed to scan its related input channels at intervals from 20 milliseconds to 99 seconds. Microdata claims. Selected inputs can also be sampled in response to an externally generated trigger input.

Programming and operation are affected by a numeric keypad on the front panel in conjunction with six mode-selection keys which allocate the instructions to the appropriate program areas. As each instruction is entered, it is verified on the nine-digit liquid crystal display panel, which means they are much more dense. They are also steadily increased in size so the problem of handling has increased and means have had to be found to ease the task of the operatives.

The result is an innocent looking black plastic box which spells death to the tiresome pests.

The insects are encouraged to climb the sloping sides of the box because the interior is cunningly baited with a pheromone, a natural hormone which smells to the cockroach as if another cockroach (possibly of the opposite sex) was invitingly within.

And if it all sounds like setting a mousetrap, the makers point out that the tendency for cockroaches to inhabit toilets, sewers and drains makes them potential carriers of deadly diseases. Furthermore, insecticides are not always completely effective (and are discouraged in kitchens and the like). Oecos believe that a sticky box, from which there is no escape, will broach more about roaches.

Shocking end for roaches

THE JARGON word "debugging" takes on a whole new meaning when applied to the Oecos Electro Roach Trap.

Oecos Scientific and Southampton University have harnessed the power of solid state electronics and the lure of sex to pest control.

The result is an innocent looking black plastic box which spells death to the tiresome pests.

The insects are encouraged to

Even a very short interruption of the power supply can cause significant changes resulting in corruption of the data stored.

One answer to the problem is non-volatile back-up storage such as magnetic tape, magnetic disc or the more sophisticated bubble memory.

The other answer is to use a form of semiconductor memory with low power requirements and add an on-board battery in case the power should fail.

For the Motorola Micro-module microcomputer range, Beaulieu Electronics are now offering a range of random access (or read and write memory) memory boards based on complementary metal oxide silicon technology, recognised for its low power consumption, with two volt batteries built in to preserve the memory contents in case of emergency.

Beaulieu is working on a version compatible with the popular U.S. standard \$100 microprocessor bus.

The company is offering the new boards in 4K, 8K and 16K byte versions, compatible with the Motorola Exorciser and Rockwell 65 microcomputers.

A single +5 volt supply is all that is required; the boards are completely static and need no refresh circuitry.

Data written in the memory can be retained for up to 20 days running on the on-board nickel cadmium batteries. Beaulieu is on 0703 39511.

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THE MARKETING SCENE

EDITED BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL

IPA ADVERTISING AWARDS

Krona 'classic' judged most effective campaign

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL

EVALUATING THE effectiveness of an advertising campaign in genuinely hard terms like sales or profits is a notoriously difficult undertaking—especially in Britain, one might suppose, where the conservatism and commercial timidity of management chiefs and marketing red Indians, too often smother any adult discussion of marketing performance.

I assumed that to have been the main cause why the summarised case histories of the winning entries in the awards scheme for advertising effectiveness organised by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising—results were announced this week—seem so threadbare. The winning case studies are to be published in book form eventually, but the summarised versions dished out this week are terse in the extreme.

Indeed, there were no prizes awarded at all in two of the five categories—industrial and financial advertising—mainly, says the IPA, because in these categories, clients were often

reluctant to sanction public disclosure of actual sales results.

One effect of withholding awards in the industrial and financial categories was that on Tuesday the IPA handed out cash prizes to the winning agencies totalling £12,000, not the £16,000 originally on offer. However, the timidity or otherwise of UK managers in sanctioning reasonable disclosure of marketing results is not held by Prof. John Treasure, chairman of the judging panel, to have been a factor here, although he hopes the overall quality of entries in future years will noticeably improve.

Rather, he cites cost as the most inhibiting factor. At the awards on Tuesday, where

prizes were presented by Sir Alex Jarratt, chairman of Reed International and president of the Advertising Association, Professor Treasure, a former chairman of J. Walter Thompson, said that the objectivity of the awards scheme—its concern solely with how advertising works in terms of measurable criteria—had raised problems.

One of these problems arises from the difficulty of evaluating the effectiveness of an advertising campaign. Despite all that has been written on this subject, it is often in practice the case that the costs of thorough evaluation are greater than the perceived benefits, with the result that the methods used leave a

lot to be desired."

On the other hand a pleasing feature of the 80 entries had been their diversity in terms of brand strategy, media mix and size of budget.

And he had no reservations at all about the overall winner, Krona margarine, submitted by Davidson Pearce Berry and Spottiswoode, an entry he dubbed "a classic of its kind—comprehensive, thoroughly documented and completely convincing."

The Krona case history covers the first 12 months of the brand's test market in the Harlech and Westward TV areas. Krona was launched to exploit the widening gap in price between butter and

margarine. The job of the brand's use as a disinfectant rather than an antiseptic, had bolstered use and purchase; second, an econometric analysis of factors affecting Dettol sales in the period 1974-78 was used to demonstrate that the sales response to the advertising muscle put behind Dettol had generated profitable increases in sales.

In the case of Tjaereborg, which sells holidays direct to the public, Boase Massini was able to demonstrate that Tjaereborg's TV advertising had proved ten times more effective in generating brochure requests than the average of a number of other holiday advertisers in London. The campaign was also highly effective in converting brochure requests into booked holidays, so that Tjaereborg had to increase inaugural capacity to 29,000 holidays, 16 per cent up on target.

Second prize winners were JWT (for Kellogg's Rice Krispies) in the category for established consumer products; Whorden Dyble & Hayes (for Whitegates Estate Agency) and



Top IPA prizewinner Stephen Benson, Krona account director at Davidson Pearce.

JWT (for All Clear shampoo) in the category for new consumer products; and Ogilvy Benson & Mather (for the British Film Institute) and JWT (for RAF Officer Recruitment) in the category of direct response consumer products. Each receives £1,000.

NEW PRODUCTS

Cereals: Kellogg in a crunch

BY RHYS DAVID

THE FAMILIAR clink of spoon on breakfast bowl sounded through the Excelsior Hotel at Heathrow recently, but at mid-day, and in the strange surroundings of one of the conference rooms, Some 70 Kellogg's salesmen had arrived the same morning to be told about the company's biggest ever cereal launch and to try for themselves the product they will have to sell to Britain's hard-pressed grocery trade—Crunchy Nut Corn Flakes.

With the company's original product holding around 20 per cent of the British breakfast cereal market, and retaining, ever since its introduction more than 50 years ago, brand leadership in the ready-to-eat cereal business, Kellogg's might be thought to be in little need of a new type of corn flake.

The sugared version, Frosties, aimed at children, has a further 5 per cent share, and with own-brands adding a further 7.8 per cent, around one in three of all cereal-for-breakfast Britons

already reaches for a corn flake packet in one form or another each morning.

Moreover, the strategy of Kellogg's of Great Britain—the parent company's biggest subsidiary by far outside the U.S.—has over recent years begun to extend out of breakfast cereals into high added value convenience foods like noodles and frozen waffles.

But the company, as Mr. John Johnson, its assistant managing director, sales and marketing, points out, is in a position to be shot at by branded and own-label rivals. "If we do not improve consumer choice, our competitors will."

Kellogg's is confident CNCF will do just that, and the marketing team at the Excelsior briefing (which included account executives from the agency handling the launch, J. Walter Thompson) handed out figures showing a higher consumer rating for the product during test than for any other cereal tested in the past 10 years.

CNCF's rating is likeable came to 87 per cent compared with 78 per cent for Corn Flakes, the same for Weetabix (the second biggest selling cereal) and Kellogg's main rival), and 70 per cent for Special K Bran Flakes and Country Store. More importantly, 76 per cent of the sample said they would be prepared to go out and buy it.

Faced with evidence that it may have a winner on its hands, Kellogg's, which has been re-marketing the product in the North for some time, decided to advance the national launch by six months with full television advertising across the country starting on October 6.

The appeal of CNCF—developed first, like most of the company's cereals, in the U.S. and refined at the UK headquarters in Manchester to suit British tastes—is its position straddling the two strongest segments of the cereal business.

Corn Flakes has itself been buoyant since the introduction last year of a vitamins and mineral fortification programme—a response, cynics argue, to the gibe that there was more nutrition in the box than the contents. The process of coating the basic corn flake with honey, brown sugar and pieces of nut also takes the product towards muesli. The UK cereal discovery of the 1970s which has been recording growth rates of 12 per cent per annum.

£1.3m budget

The Kellogg's advertising campaign, 50 spots over four weeks at a cost of £700,000, and a total budget of £1.3m for the first year, will be geared towards encouraging consumers to trade up to CNCF with emphasis placed on its natural ingredients.

As such Kellogg's expects some loss of business for Corn Flakes and Frosties, but the market for corn flakes-based cereals should increase as a whole, the company believes, and at the expense of rivals.

The timing of the launch in the middle of the biggest round of destocking by retailers in years, seems brave if not foolhardy, but Kellogg's claims that recession is usually either neutral or even positive for its business.

This year Kellogg's is on target to record the second best ever sales year after 1976, when its switch from imperial to metric packs generated higher volume sales.

The trend, too, over the longer term, Kellogg's believes, is towards continued growth in breakfast cereals. As a meal, Mr. Johnson says breakfast has become much more informal, and this has been a major factor in the decline of the cooked breakfast.

This in itself means that cereals have to become more interesting and there have to

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

Ferguson: no false sentiment

FERGUSON ISN'T one to succumb to the blues. Part of Thorn EMI, it says it expects to dominate the TV selling season with the most intensive advertising campaign seen in the UK consumer electronics industry—a multi-media song and dance costing £3m and featuring the British developed and manufactured Ferguson TX colour television range.

The campaign, orchestrated by Norman Craig and Kummel and maestro by André Previn, makes a loud and patriotic case without in any way resorting to what has already been dubbed the "marketing muddle of the year"—the Buy-British bandwagon, felicitously described elsewhere as the "Golden Delicious Syndrome."

The theme of the campaign is "The Best Picture of All Time—Ferguson TX," and features André Previn endorsing Ferguson products for a third successive year.

According to St. John Jackson, Ferguson's marketing manager, the £3m campaign involves a £1.3m investment in research, development and the latest in tube technology.

"The entire operation resembles that of a car launch. The bad news gets the headlines as per usual. What we're saying is that we can take on the competition on any ground it likes, from product reliability to post-sales service. The fact that we're British is almost incidental."

Getting the hang

Barratt Developments, Britain's biggest private house-builder, has already announced a pre-tax profits push from £18.2m to £24.8m for the year to June. But it falls positively silent on the subject of its predecessors. The WFA's entire promotional budget, a lowly

from MEAL show the Barratt Homes account to have been worth £1.36m in main media terms in the year to June 30, but that is a gross underestimate of total expenditure, which probably exceeded £22m. "We're under express instructions from the client not to discuss budgets," said Howard Oliver, MD of Brockie Haslam (North East), yesterday. "The competition follows every move we make."

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No fish tonight

News that the Apple and Pear Development Council is spending £500,000 on TV to extol the quality, variety and superiority of British apples has cast the White Fish Authority deeply

into gloom.

Asked why the WFA was not putting British fish on television, the WFA chairman, Charles Meek, said that when it applied for an increase in advertising levy, the catchers objected, and so did some

prospective members.

The WFA's entire promotional budget, a lowly

£260,000, has not been changed for ten years.

There is a moral in there somewhere, if only I could disentangle it.

Pain at Lintas

Tim Denby, chairman of Lintas, is huffing and puffing in no uncertain way at the sudden loss of Hoechst's £300,000 corporate account to a new subsidiary of the Saatchi group, the Sales Promotion Agency, set up to operate "quite separately" from the mainline Saatchi and Saatchi Garland-Compton. It has eight clients already, including Hoechst and a new Ind Coop beer.

"I'm damned angry," fumes Denby. "We've handled Hoechst for four years and pro-

duced a remarkably successful case study in corporate advertising." Between 1976 and 1980, he says, awareness of Hoechst improved from 100 to 250 on an indexed scale, while the ad spend itself dropped from 100 to 65.

Hoechst, for whom Saatchi already handles the Berger paints brand plus UK media co-ordination, stresses existing ties with Saatchi and says it admires Saatchi's corporate track record for Dunlop and BF.

Saatchi is already eyeing other Hoechst brands (Hoechst UK is spending a total of £3m this year), while its own full-year profits, due next week, are likely to tip £3m against £2.4m. And Mr. Denby? "Amazing," said Saatchi. "We cannot understand it. He's normally most amiable."

Lengthy stunt research, I discovered, was carried out mainly in Mexico and Australia. The potential dangers were so great that the agency was involved in months of negotiation with the Civil Aviation Authority.

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The WFA's entire promotional budget, a lowly

Derek Underwood is London Sales Manager for a business equipment company. He's briefing his team of tele-sales girls on next month's campaigns. He also has a team of outside representatives, all men. Derek's Region won the company's top sales prize last quarter and he aims to do the double by the end of the year.

Derek's team are also winning prizes in other directions. Every member is an Associate Member or an Affiliate of the Institute of Sales Management, encouraged to join by Derek, who has held Full Membership for some years. He knows what the Institute can do to boost the abilities and the success of sales people, whatever their business. When he took over the London Region he was determined that all his sales staff should have the same edge over their competitors that ISM had given him.

His tele-sales girls found there was only one thing they disliked about ISM. Less than 100 of its members were women. It seemed that joining Britain's largest professional sales institute was almost exclusively a chauvinistic pastime, something unacceptable to the girls' equal-right minded thinking. So they began selling hard to persuade other sales girls—retail, wholesale, tele-sales, industrial representatives and in management—to join them.

Derek's male outside representatives didn't take this lying down. Got to keep the men ahead, they felt, and a friendly competitive spirit has grown within the teams. Derek is delighted. Yet another stimulus to an already stimulating business, and his London Region, his Institute and the Selling Profession as a whole will be stronger as a result. Just what Britain needs—more winners and less losers.

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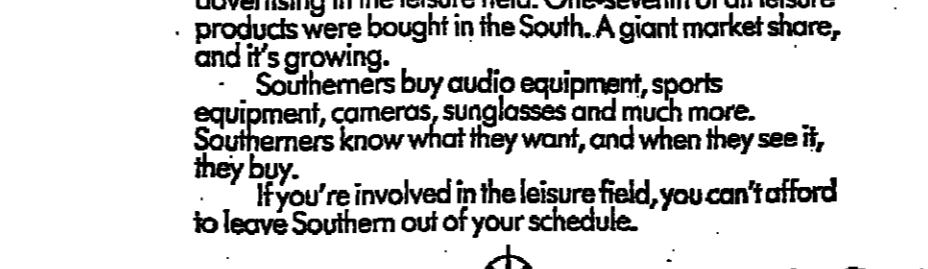
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LOMBARD

Nuclear dilemma for democracy

BY DAVID FISHLOCK

A BOOK published today reopens a question for democratic government first raised by Sir Winston Churchill almost 20 years ago. He returned as Prime Minister to learn that his predecessor had spent about £100m on nuclear weapons without telling Parliament. He viewed the matter with a mixture of admiration for the political skill it implied in "laundering" the public money and alarm for the democratic process itself.

The book is about Britain's strategic nuclear deterrent. It shows how, throughout a period of rampant inflation in the 1970s, when the Labour Government was struggling desperately to control public spending, one major project remained immune from economies; immune, in fact, from any debate by a full Cabinet, much less by Parliament.

The project is called Chevaline. During the tenure of the last Labour Government it committed nearly £1bn to a new nuclear weapon to update the Polaris submarine missile. This price included the cost of five underground nuclear explosions in Nevada, four of which took place while Labour was in office, the first only weeks after it returned to power in 1974.

Dr Lawrence Freedman, head of policy studies at Chatham House, presents a remarkably dispassionate account of Britain's quest for, and rationale for, nuclear independence. He never reveals whether Britain should possess such a weapon.

Seminal role

Dr Freedman unfolds the tale of Labour's seminal role in the 1970s in stage-managing the project which would assure continuity of the strategic nuclear deterrent until the nation was ready to take the next big step and replace the Polaris missile.

When Labour won the snap election early in 1974 it was immediately faced with a decision on several years of studies at Aldermaston, on a weapon to update Polaris for the 1980s. The first underground test for Chevaline was less than three months away. The decision was taken "as usual," says Dr

"Britain and nuclear weapons, Macmillan, £3.25."

5.55 Blankety Blank.
8.30 Yes Minister.
9.00 News.
9.25 Mackenzie.
10.20 The Greeks.
11.15 News Headlines.
11.17 Kojak.

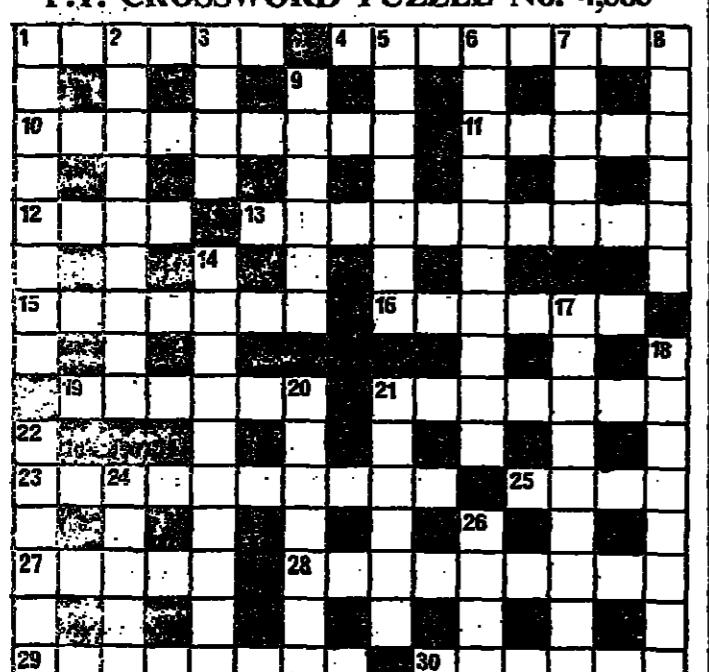
All regions as BBC 1 except as follows:

BBC Cymru/Wales—10.10-10.30 am 1 Ysgolion Hwt Ac Yma. 2.15-2.35 pm Pfenestri Tu Ol'r Dorth. 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 6.15-6.30 Nistri Men. 12.05 am News and Weather. 12.30-1.45 Nistri Men. 2.00 Wales Today. 6.15-6.30 Nistri Men. 12.05 am News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland—10.10-10.30 am For Schools (Around Scotland: The Vikings). 12.40-12.45 pm The Scottish News. 2.40-3.00 For Schools. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 12.05 am News and Weather for Scotland.

Northern Ireland—3.55-3.55 pm Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Seans Around Six. 6.55-7.20 Sportsweek. 12.05 am News and Weather for Northern Ireland.

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- An anguished feature in silver (6)
- Tap and check bird (4)
- A variable constant (9)
- A photograph for all that (5)
- Drum for sailors' dance (4)
- Women later mixed fruit (5-5)
- Northern girl left nought on but a bit of lace (7)
- Sailor to beat in ship (6)
- My set's wrong in theory (6)
- Excavator and sprinkler (7)
- Agree with revenue coinciding (10)
- Problem seen in wood (4)
- Subject to French and German articles (5)
- Bird taking allowance of food in chemical process (9)
- Dismiss team at home (8)
- Assert without proof that member is in drink (6)
- Morning for each generation that's current (8)
- Mount stage performance in rowdiness (9)
- Eastern man put up for title (4)
- Explosive about impulse, being bombastic (7)

DOWN

- Morning for each generation that's current (8)
- Mount stage performance in rowdiness (9)
- Eastern man put up for title (4)
- Explosive about impulse, being bombastic (7)

6 A stiff examination (4-6)

7 Window in door I elevated (5)

8 Large bat Kent, initially takes onward (6)

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4 **TRAVEL** **TRAIL** **TRIP**
5 **CLOSESHAVING**
6 **ALIAS** **ALI** **ALI**
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THE ARTS

Record review

Abbado, Karajan, Muti, Neveu

by ANDREW CLEMENTS

Mahler: Symphony No. 6
Chicago Symphony Orchestra/Claudio Abbado. Deutsche Grammophon 2707 117 (2 records)

Bruckner: Symphony No. 6
Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra/Herbert von Karajan. Deutsche Grammophon, 2531 295

Schumann: The Four Symphonies; Overtures to *The Bride of Messina* and *Hermann und Dorothea*. Philharmonia Orchestra/Riccardo Muti. EMI SLS 5189 (3 records)

The Complete Recorded Legacy of Ginette Neveu. EMI RLS 739 (4 records).

Among current practitioners of the trade, there are good grounds for regarding Abbado and Von Karajan as the finest conductors of the composers recorded by them. Here, Abbado's Mahler 6 is the latest instalment in a project to record the complete canon, with labours divided between the Chicago Symphony and the Vienna Philharmonic. Karajan's new release leaves him with only the first three of the Bruckner symphonies to go; Deutsche Grammophon has another Bruckner cycle underway with Barenboim and the Chicago orchestra and is evidently unworried by the duplication.

Abbado's previous Mahler recording for DG (of the second and fourth symphonies) were characterised by an exceptionally wide dynamic range, too wide to be accommodated comfortably in many domestic settings. For the new discs this has been tempered. The recording remains extremely lifelike, and one does not have to strain for the pianissimos nor flinch at the climaxes, while the detail is always carefully etched. This is an important point in a performance that concentrates on registering the finer print in the score, bringing out counterpoints and echoes which many conductors would subsume into a general orchestral tutti.

In this respect Abbado helps himself by choosing generally broad tempi. The first movement sets off with a very measured tread, and becomes proportionately slower still for the pastoral episode in the development (the beautiful woodwind playing here remarkably self-effacing from an American orchestra); the finale begins with the most sombre of prefaces, the music drifting apparently pulseless until the chorale sets in. One of the results is that the contrast between the first movement and the scherzo—Abbado uses Edwin Ratz's edition of the score, and hence places the scherzo before the Andante, though Norman Del Mar's

Parsons was both more assured and more tactful before the interval, accompanying some familiar Lieder by Schubert and Schumann. Again, the relaxed, short phrases of Schumann's *Der Nussbaum* and Schubert's *Wohin* (from *Schöne Müllerin*) sat most easily on de los Angeles' voice. Tonal support in her middle register remains excellent, but excursions above it can only be attempted with care. So most of Schubert's *Lieder* was delivered with an ease and grace that recalled Elisabeth Schumann, but the crucial high climactic phrase of each verse failed to register.

The evening concluded with ten of Frederico García Lorca's arrangements of Spanish Popular Songs, repertory which has always fitted de los Angeles' voice like a glove and in which she remains pre-eminent. Parsons' collection of the Schumann symphonies—the inclusion of two rare overtures makes an enterprising fill-up of the expected packaging of the original single-disc releases. As set it is arguably Muti's most consistent recorded achievement to date, and offers the best available deal for anyone wishing to purchase the works. Nobody would turn to Schumann's symphonies for the consistency of their orchestral thought, nor for the felicity of their scoring, and Muti responds most vividly to those passages of genuine inspiration, willing to take calculated risks (there are some dangerous rubati, and some phrasing that is close to preciousness) and making the most of the consequent rewards.

The Philharmonia plays well, if not always with the knife-edge response one might expect from an orchestra that laid more store by spectacular virtuosity. Occasionally it is made to sound heavy and unathletic (in the

recent book on the symphony has made a convincing case for a return to the original order—is a valid one. One of the serious objections to Karajan's recording of the sixth was that the tempi for the first two movements were too similar for the difference in mood to be taken seriously as a conductor.

Bruckner's sixth symphony is having a vogue on record at present: after much neglect (despite the claims of Brucknerians such as Robert Simpson that it offers the most cogent of the composer's "symphonic structures") Karajan's performance follows quickly on versions by Barenboim and Solti. The crux of any interpretation of it is in the finale, which can easily fall apart in the wrong hands.

Barenboim's otherwise exemplary account faltered at this hurdle, but Karajan is close to success: the blazes of brass tone carry through the numerous gear changes (the fewer the better for a coherent impression) and the effect is almost seamless.

One property of the recording, however, has serious musical consequences, and has been common to all the discs in this series. The cleanliness of the sound has been extended to the silences also; there is no resonance to speak of and there are many moments in Bruckner that were surely composed with a cocooning acoustic in mind. This *matters less* in the sixth than it did in Karajan's account of the ninth, which cut the introduction to the first movement into isolated columns of sound, where the pauses should be coloured by slowly ebbing resonances. Here, though, the transition from the scherzo to the trio should be less bald, and the finer lines of the trio emerge from beneath the brassy debris of the preceding music.

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The Philharmonia plays well, if not always with the knife-edge response one might expect from an orchestra that laid more store by spectacular virtuosity. Occasionally it is made to sound heavy and unathletic (in the

opening movement of the second symphony for example) but this is Muti's intention; here the symphony looks forward to the later heirs of the 19th century symphonic tradition and, of all people, to Bruckner. Single-handed Muti seems to be making out a case for Schumann to be taken seriously as a conductor, and a lack of spontaneity (for all the moulding is quite clearly part of a long-range expressive plan) might be the criticism most likely to be laid before these performances.

The assemblage of all the extant recordings of the French violinist Ginette Neveu constitutes an album of immense value. When she was killed in an air crash in 1949 she was barely 30 years old, and the miracle is that so much of her playing—enough to fill four LPs—has been preserved. The performances date from a time when young artists were not automatically hustled into the studio at the earliest possible opportunity.

The chief glory of this set is the pair of concertos—the Sibelius and the Brahms—recorded in London in 1945 and 1946 with Walter Legge's Philharmonia Orchestra. The Sibelius is quite astonishing: not even Heifetz's performances on record can touch it for technical poise and sustained intensity, for conveying such an overwhelming impression of artistic rightness. It seems to have been conceived in a single musical thought. The Brahms is spoilt by a poor orchestral sound (in a number of cases the master of the original discs have been lost and these transfers taken from shellacs, by and large quite acceptably) and the purity of Neveu's tone fails to survive.

Elsewhere in the collection there are a variety of smaller pieces: a number of arrangements from the popular classics by Kreisler and others recorded in Berlin in 1938; Strauss's Violin Sonata taken down the following year, also in Berlin; and exquisite versions of Ravel's *Tzigane* and Debussy's Sonata from 1946, in which Neveu was partnered by her brother Jean. From these four records alone it is possible to place Neveu with the very finest violinists of the century: she seems to stand in relation to modern violin performance in much the same way that Dina Lipatti related to the post-war piano, and no praise could be higher than that.



Frances de la Tour and David de Keyser

Elizabeth Hall

Eugen Indjic

The name is slightly familiar, for though Eugen Indjic was making his London debut in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Tuesday evening, he is a past prizewinner in the Leeds Piano Competition, being placed behind Murray Perahia in the 1972 final. Since then Indjic has been steadily building a reputation abroad and now, at 33, one would expect a mature artist, with fully formed ideas and a repertoire tailored to suit his strengths.

Yet what we heard suggested interpretations still being developed, works to be fitted into a performing profile or perhaps set aside. Evidently the technique is strong and unyielding; he can sustain an uninterrupted forte for many pages without flagging. Unfortunately he chose to do that rather too often in Schumann's *Carnaval*, a dizzying account which neglected hairpins and sforzandi, though nothing of bringing the music almost to a halt to make an obvious expressive point, and deviated even the most engaging movements of charm and elegance.

Beethoven's Sonata Op. 10 no. 3 was rattled through—just

that, the tone shallow and undifferentiated—and though there was little more variegation in a group of three Chopin mazurkas, occasionally Indjic found oases of softer, more rounded tone, managing to eke out one of them through Op. 24 no. 4 (in B flat minor) to produce the most personal and rewarding playing of the evening, with Pollini due to appear next door in the Festival Hall it was perhaps tactless of Indjic to choose to end his recital with the Three Dances from Stravinsky's *Petrushka*; on record Pollini plays them better than anyone.

But it's bravado. In the final three visits, she has given up. She has become foul-mouthed. Her pupils are useless, her husband's music is "tonal gibberish." She invents a discreditable sexual affair. Feldman plays a record of a cadenza (of much brilliance and more vulgarity) that she once played, and launches into a fine speech, finely delivered, about the purpose of life. The conclusion is open-ended; the struggle is not over.

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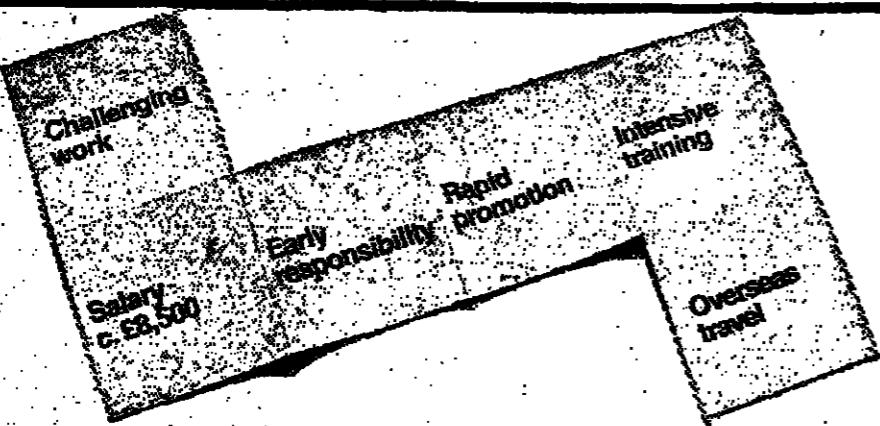
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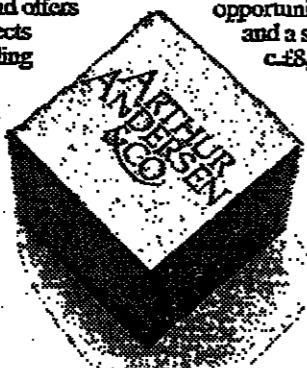
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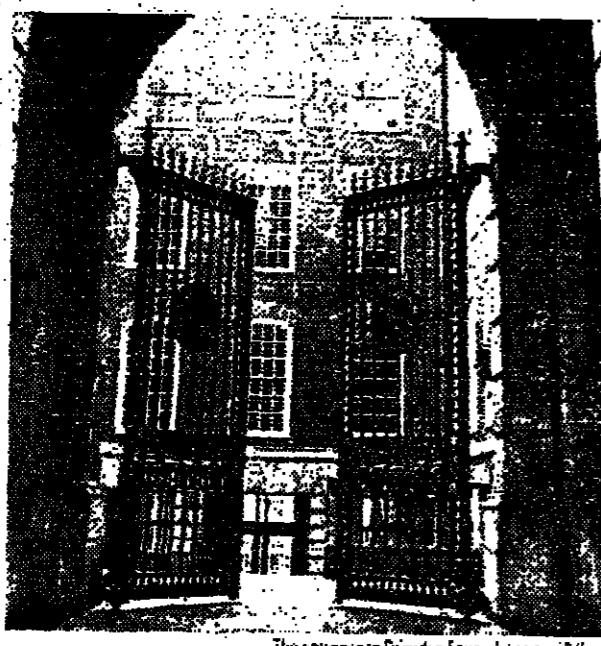


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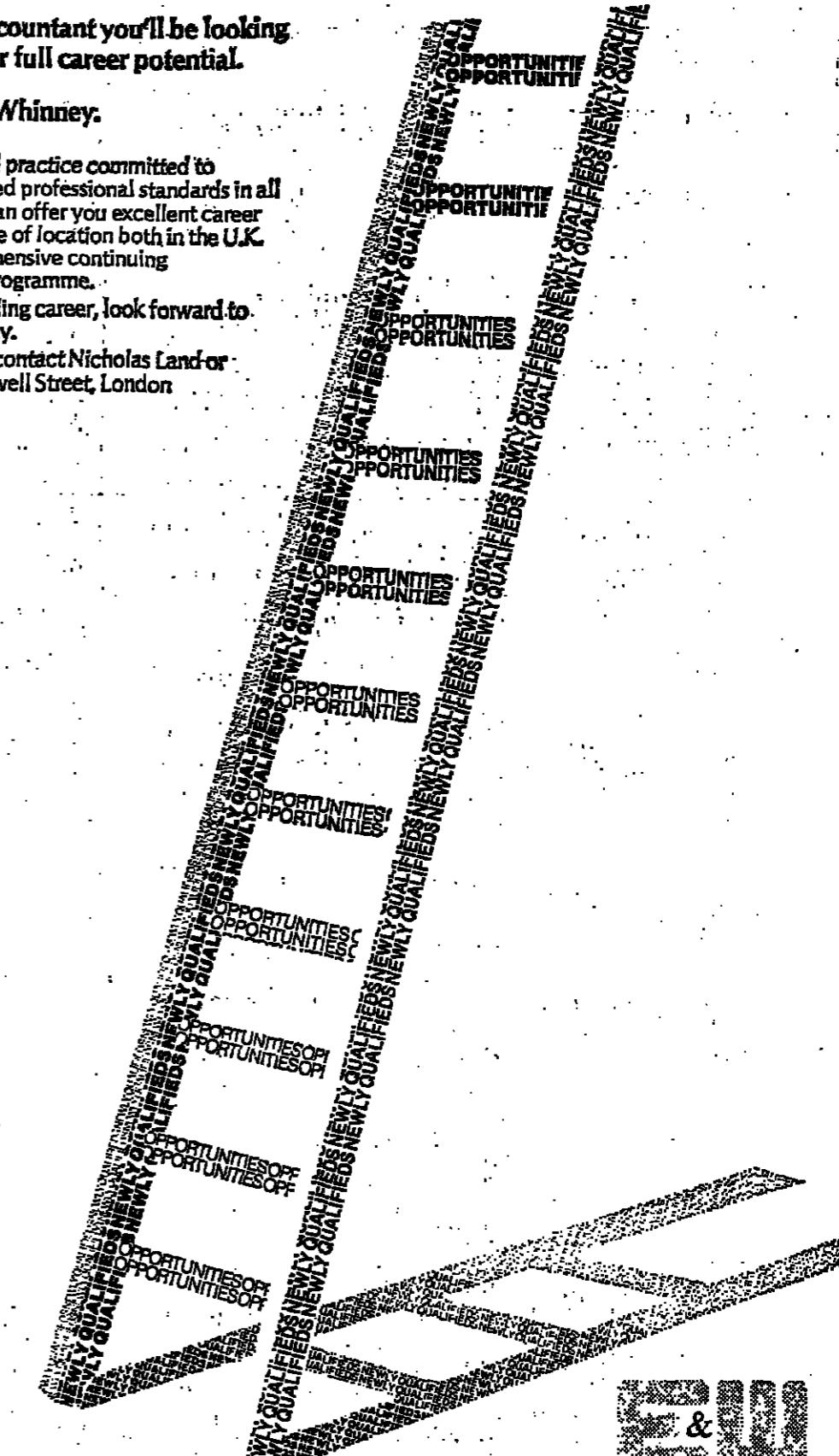
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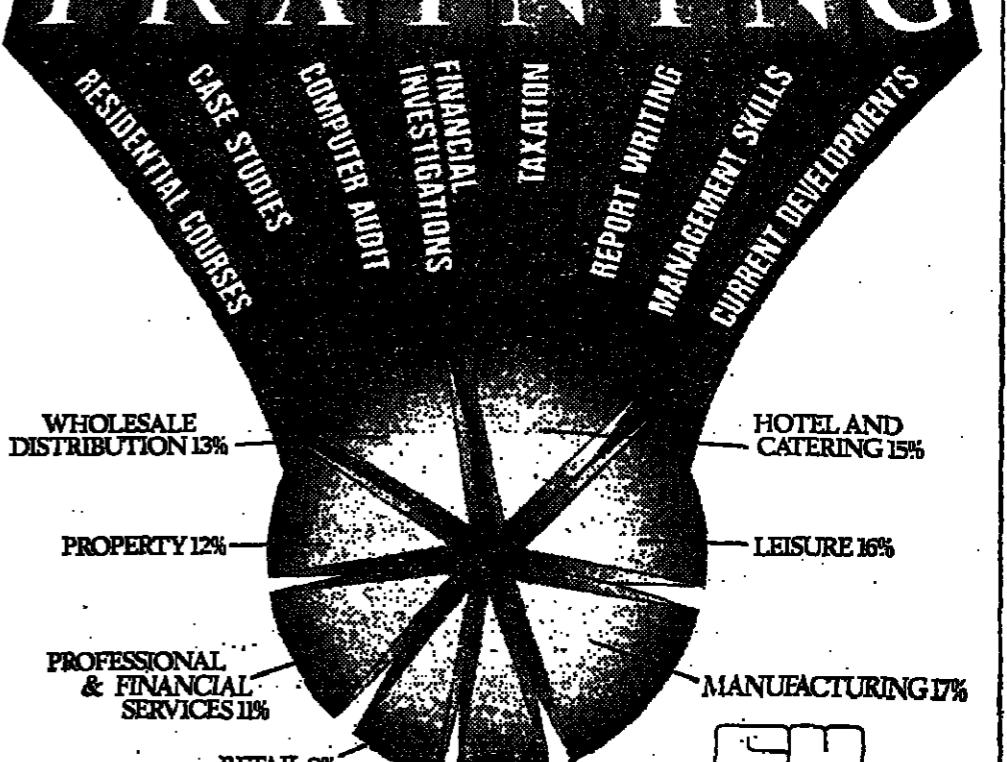
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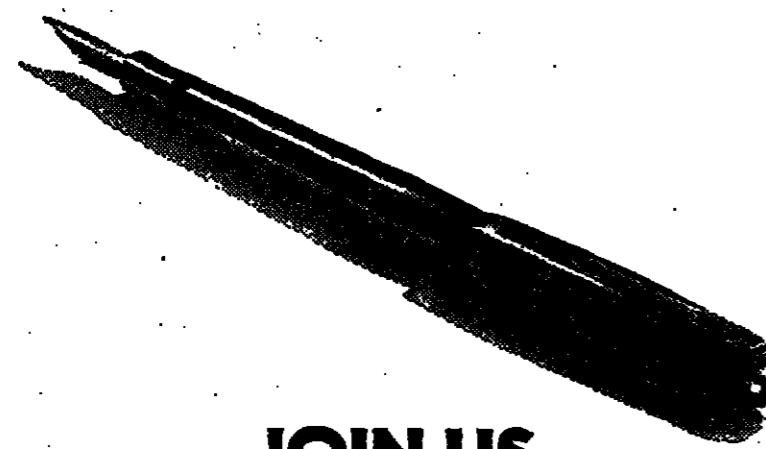
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Brentwood

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THE BANK OF TOKYO LTD.
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Real-life lesson for Europe's top managers

BY MICHAEL DIXON

"DO YOU know where to find winning margin over Ireland?" asked a voice on the telephone recently. "There's a headhunting firm that wants to know their addresses."

As it happened, I did know: they all work as marketing specialists with Shell UK Oil. The reason was that but a few days before I had stood with a hundred other people in Copenhagen, and applauded as the Shell quartet were handed the European Management Cup by Britain's only woman ambassador, Dame Anne Warburton.

When she accepted the engagement, the British Ambassador to Denmark could not have known she would be presenting the prize to a team from the United Kingdom. This year's European management championship might equally have been won by Denmark, or Finland, or France, or Ireland, or Norway, or Sweden or West Germany—if, that is, any of them had directed their national consumer-durable company as well as the UK players did through the cruel slump imposed on all alike by the computer-based contest's programme.

But in the event, they didn't. At the end of the equivalent of 15 months trading, the four from Britain had accumulated a profit of almost £17m, and given the rest of the best of Europe an

undeniable drubbing. Their would-be national champions would be divided into playing groups of four, or in the occasional instance, of three or of five teams. Each team will then be sent a set of accounts and a market report representing their company. And at the outset, every company will be in an identical business position.

In addition, there will be a "Treasury forecast"—which in this case has the unusual attribute of being rarely wrong—of the economic conditions the teams are to suffer at the behest of the computer program. If the players read the forecast carefully enough, they might also pick up advance-warning of a strike, a factory fire or some other managerial nuisance lurking on the not-too-distant horizon.

So nobody can doubt the validity of Messrs Snaith, Curry and Plumb, all aged 27, and Richard Gray who is no less than 30, at playing computer-based management competitions. But that still leaves a question of central importance to anyone thinking of following their lead by playing in next year's £7,500 UK championship, for which the entry lists have just been declared open. The question is: what, if anything, have the many hours spent running a "paper" company taught them, which is of use in their real-life careers?

To find out, I went and confronted the new European champions in Shell's private pub just off the Strand in London. Before I report their scrupulously sober conclusions, however, I had better outline how the national and international contests are played.

When the entry list closes in November the whole field of

various markets available. If I'd say we've learned more of the limitations of computer modelling than of anything else about the damn things. But for anybody with little experience of working with computers, playing would be a good introduction."

They went on to explain that people like themselves in staff jobs with big organisations tended to be very much insulated from the discipline imposed by cash flow. "So it came as a revelation," said Richard Gray. "Generating cash is vital not just to small businesses, but also to the top management of mammoths."

Teamwork

In a similar way, the double champions agreed that the contest would provide good training in working as a team to sort out complicated problems and reach agreement on the best ways of dealing with them. They had, however, also learned "that already in their jobs with Shell.

Having decided how to allocate its money and on its prices, every team records the decisions on a form and posts it to the administrators, whose address from next Monday will be The National Management Game, Beaumont, Old Windsor, Berks SL4 2JP. The sets of decisions made by the teams in each particular group are fed together into the computer, which thrashes out the consequences for each of the teams, sending it back a print-out recording its new business position. This is then used as the basis for the team's next set of decisions. After five or six rounds of decision-making, the company with the highest profit is declared the winner and goes forward to the next stage of the championship.

"So when you're playing," said Richard Gray, "you can't help getting very much involved with the peculiar habits of computers. As market analysis with Shell, of course, we're no strangers to those already, and

By this time, I was beginning to feel uneasy, and edged forward in my seat. But was there not anything, I inquired with some emphasis, that they had learned for the first time; by way of some small return to their company for financing their training budget?

For perhaps five seconds they left me wriggling anxiously in silence, before all answering with one voice, "Yes. Cash."

"That, only if you generate enough cash can you put yourself in a position to make the right managerial decisions in other ways," continued Phil Snaith, who led the team to its victories.

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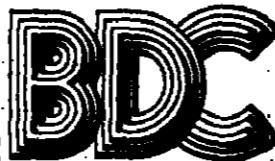
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EMA Management Personnel Ltd.
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Telephone: 01-242 7773

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This advertisement is featured on page 599019 of Prestel

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Wicanders (GB) Ltd., is the UK subsidiary of the Swedish Wicanders group, the world's leading company manufacturing and marketing cork based floor and wall coverings for the construction and retail markets.

Reporting to the managing director, the finance director will have full responsibility for the finance function, including in house EDP. As a member of a small, young management team, the appointee will be expected to make a major contribution to the overall direction of the business.

Applicants must be qualified accountants, aged up to 45, with senior level experience in a commercial trading organisation, that must be comprehensive, and include ED. More importantly, candidates must have the personality and credibility to be effective at all levels, and enjoy the opportunity to participate in the management of the business. The location and the benefits are attractive.

For an application form telephone 01-236 3561 (24-hour service) or write to J. H. Cobb, Executive Selection Division, quoting reference 1910/L.



Peat Marwick, Mitchell & Co.

165 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, BLACKFRIARS,
LONDON EC4V 4EP

Export Finance

A major international bank wishes to appoint an assistant to its Export Finance Manager.

The successful applicant is likely to be aged between 27-34 and to have had several years experience of negotiating ECGD buyer and supplier credits in a merchant or international bank in London. A working knowledge of French would be an advantage.

The position embraces all aspects of export finance and will entail contact with exporters and banks at management level. Considerable emphasis will be placed on marketing, self-motivation and a willingness and ability to generate new business will therefore be of prime importance.

The remuneration and benefits will be those normally associated with a large organisation of first class repute.

Interested applicants should write, giving full details of personal background and professional experience to:

D. HARDEN, Streets Advertising, Hulton House,
161-166 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 2DN.

Streets Advertising

Recruitment Advertising Division

indicating the names of any companies to which applications should not be forwarded.

SENIOR POSITION available to

INVESTMENT BANKER

experienced in

LOAN SYNDICATION

PRIVATE PLACEMENTS

EUROBONDS UNDERWRITING

Languages: English—possibly French.

Place of Work: London or Lausanne, Switzerland (if Swiss resident).

Attractive terms of employment.

Submit to:

TRADITION SECURITIES LIMITED

Lee House, London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS

Attention: Managing Director

CENTRAL ELECTRIC GENERATING LTD.

Secretary to the Board

Applications are invited for the post of Secretary to the Board which is vacant due to promotion.

The Secretary has the key role as chief administrator to the Board and heads a department of 600 staff located at the Board's Headquarters in London. The nature and scope of the duties, which cover every aspect of the Board's work, demands a high level of administrative and professional skills.

The post demands managerial experience at Board, senior civil service or government level and assumes an understanding of the role of large industry within the economy; in particular the post requires an understanding of the relationship at Government-industry interfaces so that the Board's organisation and operational strategy can progress within government and other social pressures. Clearly, a mature understanding of current societal values and trends, a working knowledge of legislative processes and the ability to deal with the problems of a large organisation and its adaptability to change are essential qualities for the job holder.

Applicants are likely to be at least 40 years of age and able to demonstrate evidence of mature, sustained judgement over a range of key issues and administrative responsibilities. Whilst formal academic and professional qualifications are not of overriding importance, the conceptual and political skills demanded by the job are of an intellectual level equating to Honours degree standard.

The starting salary for this post will be circa £20,000 per annum (including London Allowance) together with the usual benefits pertaining to a job at this level.

Applications stating full relevant details and present salary to Mr. J. W. Baker, CECB, Sudbury House, 15 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AU by 10 October 1980. Quote Ref. FT/186.

Group Financial Director

From £17,000 + car

Our client is a rapidly growing public group with several subsidiary companies involved in metal trading and processing, and a total turnover of around £100m. An experienced senior financial executive is now required to fill a key post at the group headquarters. Reporting to the Chairman, the person appointed will be responsible for all aspects of accounting and financial management for the group, including reporting from associated companies. Aged 33 to 45, candidates must be qualified Chartered Accountants, thoroughly versed in the preparation, co-ordination and interpretation of multi-plant financial and management accounts in a process industry. Familiarity with computer-based systems, taxation, asset control, export documentation and money manipulation is highly desirable. Meticulous

Ref. A455/7455/FT

Initial interviews are conducted by PA Consultants. No details are divulged to clients without prior permission. Please send brief career details or write for an application form, quoting the reference number on both your letter and envelope, and advise us if you have recently made any other applications to PA Personnel Services.

PA Personnel Services

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE. Tel: 01-235 6060 Telex: 27674



A member of PA International

SENIOR INTERNAL AUDITOR-EUROPE

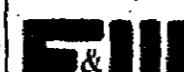
Brussels based

Our client is a leading International healthcare products group with substantial manufacturing interests in Europe.

The senior auditor will be responsible for executing financial and operational audits throughout the region, planned in conjunction with the director of international audit in the USA. Additionally, special studies will be conducted for regional and corporate management.

Applicants must be qualified accountants and should have several years' experience of planning and using modern auditing techniques in international organisations. Industrial experience would be advantageous. Initiative and excellent inter-personal skills are essential qualities.

Career development within the group is positively encouraged and auditors are expected to progress to key line positions. Salary is negotiable and benefits are commensurate with the nature of the position. Please send brief personal details, in confidence and quoting reference FT/121/M to Douglas G. Mizan at the address below. Interviews will be held in London and on the Continent.



Ernst & Whinney Management Consultants
57 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4SY

20 Senior Appointments

NEWLY QUALIFIED COMMERCE?

As a newly qualified Chartered Accountant, the choice is yours—management auditing, financial accounting, computer technology, investment planning, financial analysis, taxation. The roles are many and varied and each one can lead you to the top.

For an informed discussion of your career contact the specialists MARK LOCKETT, CHRIS DENINGTON, GORDON MONTGOMERY.

ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL SENIOR APPOINTMENTS
41 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB 01-588 5105

Opportunities in South Africa

The Gold Fields of South Africa Group, which currently employs over 75,000 people on its various gold, coal and base metal mines, has two vacancies at the Group's Head Office in Johannesburg for:

Mining Investment Analysts

The successful applicants will be responsible for:-
translation of technical assessments into financial terms to provide a basis for project investment decisions;
financial assessment of long-term planning alternatives;
valuation of quoted and other companies.

Applicants should have a university degree, preferably in a quantitative discipline, and must have at least two years post-graduate experience in investment analysis directly related to mining or technical evaluation.

Salary will be in the region of £14,400 p.a., depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include air passage to South Africa (including family), relocation and settling-in allowances, accommodation at the Company's expense for an initial period, non-contributory pension scheme, contributory medical aid scheme and generous leave. The cost of living and taxation are generally lower in South Africa than in the UK.

Applicants appointed will be expected to obtain permanent residence permits.

Interviews with representatives from GFS will be held in October at the offices in London of the Group's associated company, Consolidated Gold Fields Limited. Please write, with brief relevant particulars, to the Personnel Officer (ref. GFS), Consolidated Gold Fields Limited, 49 Moorgate, London EC2R 6BQ.

Gold Fields

Gold Fields of South Africa Limited

Management Accountant

This is a new appointment in a highly successful company, based in the North-West, which is part of a £300m group, a household name in the communications and leisure industry.

- THE PRIME TASK, which will necessitate working closely with line managers, is the development of budgeting, forecasting and cost analysis techniques. There is a support team of six.
- ONLY GRADUATE ACCOUNTANTS already in the commercial sector who possess a high level of articulation and a keenness to enter general management quickly should apply.
- SALARY is negotiable in a range starting at £12,000 plus generous benefits. Preferred age around 30.

Write in complete confidence
to N.C. Humphreys as adviser to the company.

TYZACK & PARTNERS LTD

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
10 HALLAM STREET and LONDON WIN 6DJ
21 AINSLEY PLACE and EDINBURGH EH3 6AJ

Deputy to Finance Director

c. £14,000 + Car

This is an appointment to a very successful Engineering Company located in an attractive area of the North West. The Company is an autonomous profit centre within a rapidly expanding, high technology, multi-national.

The job will provide an able professional Accountant (probably 30-35) with major managerial responsibility and the opportunity to lead the further development of advanced management and financial accounting systems. Travel to other locations world wide will be an occasional aspect of the job.

The appointee will have managerial experience of financial planning, of monthly performance reporting and analysis and of progressive cost accounting in a manufacturing organisation. Proven professional ability will be complemented with the motivation to lead a young team of accountants making an increasingly central contribution to the decision making processes of the Company. Career prospects are excellent.

He or she must clearly have the potential to take on higher level appointments within the Company or Group (not necessarily in the financial function) after appropriate development and experience.

Relocation assistance will be provided.

Apply for an application form quoting reference P.139B, to:
ERP International Recruitment Limited, Clemence House, St. Werburgh Street,
Chester CH1 2DY. Tel: 0244 317886. (Answerphone after 5 p.m.)

Offices in London, Chester, Jeddah, Amsterdam, Brussels, Milan and Paris.



A P BANK LIMITED MERCHANT BANKING DEVELOPMENT

AP BANK LIMITED is seeking a young executive to help with the planning and promotion of new business development. This is an appointment with excellent prospects for a career in international merchant banking.

Applicants should be graduates and/or have an appropriate professional qualification, should be about 25-30 years of age and must have had general basic experience with a merchant bank or other banking institution.

Initial salary will be according to qualifications and experience and the appointment will carry the customary other benefits.

Please write in confidence with full c.v. to:

Mr. A. R. Merchant
AP BANK LIMITED
31, Grace Winchester Street
London, EC2N 2HH

MANAGEMENT PROJECT

c. £9,000 + mortgage

Enjoy working alone? Fully conversant with management reporting, budgeting, foreign exchange? You will probably be early 30's either newly qualified or have proven ability within Banking.
For further information please call:

Margaret Smith 626 0271
ALBANY APPOINTMENTS

MONEY BROKERS DEALERS

Our client is looking to expand both its sterling and FX departments. If you have any experience 01-488 9373 or home 0256 71911

Treasury Specialist for Management Consultancy

Substantial Remuneration

We are a leading firm of Management Consultants providing impartial, professional advice, usually at board level.

The appointment reflects the continuing growth of our involvement in treasury work for clients. Tasks include advising on developing banking strategies, optimising funding arrangements and managing currency exposure. Our need is for an additional consultant whose technical skills and personal attributes are of the highest calibre.

Aged 28-35, candidates should have a good degree or professional qualification and at least four years' successful experience in the treasury function of a substantial group. Personal qualities must include well-developed commercial flair and communication skills.

Dealing with a wide range of clients, the work offers an excellent opportunity to broaden experience, solve complex and demanding problems, and to operate in an intellectually stimulating environment.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should contain relevant details of career and salary progression, age, education and qualifications.

Please write to G. W. Thiel quoting reference 922/FT on both envelope and letter.

**Deloitte
Haskins + Sells**
Management Consultants

128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

INVESTMENT MANAGER

FIXED INTEREST

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Limited, one of Australia's leading financial institutions, seeks an experienced manager with an entrepreneurial flair to become part of a highly successful and progressive investment management team in its Head Office, Melbourne.

The successful applicant will participate in formation of overall investment strategy and will be directly responsible to the Chief Investment Manager for:

- Strategy formation for its fixed interest portfolios;
- Active management of one of the largest gilt and debenture portfolios in Australia;
- Active management of a substantial money market book. A proven record in money market management and gilt trading is, therefore, essential;
- Providing advice and assistance to other members of the National Mutual Group which includes activity in the Building Society, Merchant Banking and Finance Company fields.

We offer an attractive salary package, appropriate to this senior appointment, including relocation costs.

Write or telephone for an application form to:

M. J. Cummings,
Personnel & Training Officer,
National Mutual Life Association
of Australasia Limited,
Austral House,
Basinghall Avenue,
London EC2 5EP
Telephone: 01-638 1222



Head of Accounts

Leatherhead £10,000-£14,750

PIRA is the technical consultancy, research, information and training centre for the Paper and Board, Printing and Packaging Industries.

Expanding commercial work (t/o £24m) offers a rewarding post for an experienced Management Accountant in charge of all accounting and finance. He or she will have the drive to modernise existing systems and introduce EDP to provide vital management information.

Reporting to the Director the systems will cover contract consultancy, product sales and subscription funded activities.

Applicants must be qualified accountants probably aged 30-40 with experience of computerised accounting, managing staff, costing and provision of management information.

Starting salary £10,000-£12,750 and possibility of increases to £14,750. Removal assistance to this pleasant area of Surrey and a very good pension scheme.

Further details from:



Head of Administration
PIRA
Randalls Road, Leatherhead
Surrey KT22 7RU
Tel: Leatherhead (037 23) 76161

EUROPEAN ADVERTISEMENT SALES REPRESENTATIVE

A vacancy exists for a European Advertisement Sales Representative who will be based in London. A good knowledge of European business and fluent Spanish are required. Salary dependent on qualifications and experience.

Applications, accompanied by a curriculum vitae, should be forwarded to:-

Miss Fionula O'Hara
European Advertisement Department, Room 414
Financial Times, Bracken House,
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

FINANCIAL TIMES EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

ACTION RESOURCE CENTRE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR: £8,000+

The Action Resource Centre (ARC) is a national organisation that links over 200 large and medium sized companies to projects of community benefit. Through ARC's current programme, secondees from supporting companies offer business expertise to help new enterprises likely to create new permanent jobs or relevant training. The Deputy Director will be based in London in a small central team. Responsibilities include financial and systems management for ARC's offices in England and Wales.

Write for application form and job description to:
The Secretary, Action Resource Centre,
Henrietta House, 9 Henrietta Place, London W1M 9AG

Financial Controller

For fast growing operation
Central London
to £15,000 + Car

Our client is one of the few companies which has been able to sustain growth in today's troubled economic conditions. The rapid expansion of its High Street Service/Retailing operation (t/o approximately £5m) shows no signs of abating and plans for further development are being actively pursued.

A high calibre commercially orientated Financial Controller is now required to be responsible to the Chief Executive for all financial and company secretarial aspects of the business.

You will be Qualified Accountant aged up to about 40 with a record of effective financial control, including ad hoc investigations, in a small fast expanding business.

If you want total business involvement and can offer that unique blend of sound financial expertise and keen business awareness, this position could be of considerable interest to you. Prospects of a Board appointment with equity participation are excellent.

Please send concise personal, career and salary details, or apply for an application form, quoting Ref. AC504/FT to:

W.S. Gifford, Thornton Baker Personnel Services Limited,
Fairfax House, Fulwood Place, London WC1V 6DW.
Telephone: 01-405 8422.
A member of the Management Consultants Association

Chief accountant

London, c. £13,500 + car

For a nationally known and long established publishing organisation now wishing to strengthen its accounting function, to coincide with the introduction of computer based systems.

Reporting to the Financial Director, you will head a department of around 30 financial and management accounting staff.

You should be a qualified accountant over 35 with sound technical skills and a proven ability to manage staff of long service and experience.

Resumes including a daytime telephone number to E.H. Simpeon, Executive Selection Division, Ref. SA681.

Coopers & Lybrand associates

Coopers & Lybrand Associates Limited
management consultants
Shelley House, Noble Street
London EC2V 7DQ

Manufacturers Hanover Trust—London Latin American Region

Manufacturers Hanover seek two bankers to join the team which forms part of the International group in London responsible for the development of our correspondent banking business in Latin America and Iberia. The senior position should lead shortly to Assistant Vice President rank and the more junior position would suit a candidate with a few years' experience and the potential for a managerial appointment in due course. Both will require reasonable fluency in either Spanish or Portuguese, willingness to travel and relevant experience including documentary credits, loan negotiation and preferably also export finance.

The positions offer attractive salaries and other benefits and the opportunity for posting overseas in the future.

Please apply to:-

The Vice-President
International Banking Group
Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company
P.O. Box 562, 7 Princes Street
LONDON EC2P 2LR

Jonathan Wren Banking Appointments

The personnel consultancy dealing exclusively with the banking profession

A few of our more urgent current assignments:-

LENDING/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (U.K.)	... to £20,000
SENIOR RETAIL BANKERS (fluent Arabic or Urdu)	... c. £12,000
SENIOR F.X./DEPOSITS DEALERS (London and Middle East)	Negotiable
YOUNG A.C.A. (accounting experience within financial institution)	... c. £10,000
SENIOR BANKER (Manchester) (New Venture)	... to £15,000
MANAGER SYNDICATIONS CORPORATE FINANCE (fluent French)	... to £18,000
FOREX DEALER (Spanish speaking)	... c. £11,000
OPERATIONS (AVP status)	... £12,000
SENIOR STOCK EXCHANGE DEALER (Broking)	... to £20,000
BOND/FUND MANAGEMENT - INTERNATIONAL (London)	... c. £15,000
MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS	Negotiable

For further details of these and other opportunities
please contact Ken Anderson or Brian Gooch.

First floor—entrance New Street
170 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4LX 01-623 1266

TREASURY SERVICES

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BANK

Our Client is a prominent international bank with an established reputation for the quality of its treasury operations, resulting from an active and effective foreign exchange dealing room.

Current plans call for the further development of foreign exchange and treasury activities with the bank's corporate clientele. Candidates for this key appointment will be in their late 20's and possess a positive background in foreign exchange dealing gained from within an international bank or the treasury department of a multi-national corporation.

This opportunity will provide the scope for a challenging career and will be matched by a competitive salary and attractive fringe benefits.

Contact Norman Philpot in confidence on 01-248 3812

NPA Recruitment Services Ltd

60 Cheapside London EC2 Telephone 01-248 3812 3 4 5

Senior Management Accountant

BNO (Development) Limited is concerned with the exploration and development of oilfields on the UK Continental Shelf. Within this operation there is a current requirement for a highly capable Accountant whose main function will be to provide a financial information service for the compilation, monitoring and control of budgets, in close liaison with the Corporation's trading partners.

To meet the demands of this senior post a sound (7-10 yrs) accounting track record is required which should include supervisory experience plus an organised and flexible approach. Formally

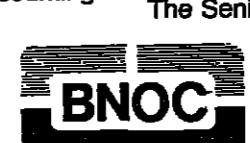
qualified you will ideally have some knowledge of oil-related industry and to cover your responsibility for systems reviews and update, be conversant with computers.

A very attractive salary and benefits package will be offered in line with the progressive nature of the industry, and relocation assistance would be available.

To apply, please contact, quoting ref HK/FT

The Senior Personnel Officer
The British National Oil Corporation
150 St. Vincent Street
GLASGOW G2 5LJ
Tel: 041-226 5555

The British National Oil Corporation



FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALER

A foreign exchange dealer with about 3 years experience in spot and forward foreign exchange trading is required for the well established London foreign exchange trading team.

The position carries a competitive salary and the usual range of London bank fringe benefits.

Applications should be made in writing, accompanied by a fully detailed curriculum vitae to:

Mr. R. G. Stevenson, Assistant Vice President and Personnel Manager, Wells Fargo Bank N.A., Winchester House, 80 London Wall, London EC2M 5ND.

Wells Fargo Bank N.A.



Special Projects Accountant c.£10,000

Our client is an autonomous Division of one of the U.K.'s leading industrial groups. The vacancy for a Special Projects Accountant is based at the company's Head Office in London.

Applications are invited from well experienced, qualified accountants—ideally in their early 30's—who have the ability to work at a high level, under pressure, with a minimum of supervision.

Reporting to the Financial Director, the successful candidate will be required to carry out special investigations into possible new business ventures and carry out business valuations. He or she will also be required to make a contribution to, and become involved in, business planning procedures, control data design, capital project appraisals and evaluations.

Please write with a comprehensive CV together with salary history to Position Number BSS 8030, Austin Knight Limited, London W1A 1DS.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter to the Position Number Supervisor.

Austin Knight Advertising



JAPAN

Institutional salesperson required to join expanding Japanese trading department of leading stockbrokers in London. Sales experience essential and knowledge of Japan preferred. Ability in European languages would be an advantage.

Replies to Box A.7303, Financial Times
10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

PARIS BASED

Travel To £15,000
An excellent opportunity to join a multi-million dollar American corporation in one of their European locations. The position is strictly operational audit and will involve travel to Germany and Spain as well as English speaking countries. Some knowledge of German or Spanish is essential. Promotion to a line position would be anticipated within about 18 months. Newly qualified accountants (or finalists) preferred.

CORPORATE PLANNING £10,500
N. London A U.K. manufacturing group with an international marketing network seeks a young MBA or Economica graduate with previous commercial experience in a financially orientated role. The varied work content will include economic appraisals, market investigations and wide ranging financial analyses. Exposure to senior management will be high as this small department is based at the group's head office. Promotion prospects are good and may well be into a senior line or staff function.

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT £29,500 + Benefits
S. London An expanding company in the commercial catering industry are currently seeking an ambitious accountant to join their young management team. The Company Accountant will be responsible for the preparation of both monthly management and financial accounts whilst also performing a supervisory/administrative function. The ideal candidate would be a newly qualified ACCA (or finalist) aged around 27 with previous experience in commerce or industry. Excellent career prospects.

AUDITOR £9,000 + Car
C. London A diversified group with a turnover in excess of £100m and interests in service, consumer goods and advanced technology industries seeks an ACA with large firm experience. Working in a highly computerised environment he/she will do very little detailed checking, main responsibilities being systems audit, management reviews, identification of problems and action recommendations. Travel mainly in U.K. plus some in Europe.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT To £9,000
C. London This new position is intended to provide the one year/eighteen months grooming required for a qualified ACA to make an early entry into general management. Our client seeks an ambitious self starter with a strong commercial awareness. His/her personality and communicative abilities will not be overlooked and long term career progression within the group to the upper echelons of management will be expected to be within his/her capabilities as well as intentions.

Lee House, London WC1, London EC2Y 5AS Tel: 01-606 6771

ROBERT HALF

Accountancy & Financial personnel specialists

Financial Accountant

c.£9,500

A leading industrial organisation now has a challenging opportunity in its group financial department in West London.

The post calls for a young qualified accountant, ideally with experience in a major professional practice or commercial concern. An above average ability to communicate with accountants at all levels and ages and the strength of personality to ensure adherence to reporting policies are important attributes.

Within strict time parameters the role covers all aspects of financial accounting using computerised systems and offers excellent experience at large group level. There are good prospects for personal development and promotion.

Please telephone or write in confidence to:
MANN MANAGEMENT, 124 New Bond Street,
London W1. 01-629 4226.

MANN
MANAGEMENT

TIRED OF TRAVELLING?

Member firm of stockbrokers require partner's assistant at their Southampton office. Previous stock exchange experience essential. Good terms and opportunities for advancement offered to right applicant.

Write to:
Senior Partner, A. H. COMMOLD & CO.,
61 Devonshire Road, Southampton SO9 1XL

APPOINTMENT ADVERTISING

Rate £19.50 per single column centimetre

Financial Accountant

from £12,000+car: London

Our client, a successful and leading British Group with an outstanding export record and overseas interests in printing, engineering, electronics and allied fields, seeks a Senior Financial Accountant to join its London Head Office.

The successful candidate will act as deputy and report to the Group Financial Accountant. Key responsibility will be for the preparation of periodical and annual consolidated accounts and for regular reporting on the Group's financial position, UK and overseas, both present and projected.

Candidates, mature and qualified accountants, probably in the age bracket 30 to 45, should have a broad accountancy background, that should ideally include experience in manufacturing, commercial and financial environments. The nature of the work is extremely varied and the ability to operate as a member of a team within the Group structure is essential. The job offers good prospects for promotion in the longer term.

Salary will be from £12,000 depending upon experience. Excellent benefits include company car, free BUPA, contributory pension and life assurance schemes, season ticket loan and 25 days' holiday.

Please telephone (01-629 1844 at any time) or write—in confidence—in the first instance for a personal history form. M. Horner ref. B.1752.

This appointment is open to men and women.

United Kingdom Australia Belgium Canada
France Germany Holland Ireland Italy
New Zealand South Africa South America
Sweden Switzerland U.S.A.

HSL

Management Selection Limited
International Management Consultants
17 Stratton Street London W1X 6DB

AUSTRALIA

Our client seeks a rare person

FINANCIAL RESEARCH ANALYST

- COMMERCIAL FLAIR
- Good grasp of STOCKMARKET
- Drive for HIGH EARNINGS

One of Australia's long established stockbrokers based in Sydney seeks an outstanding analyst to join their successful management team. This person will have many distinctive qualities, not the least of which will be the ability to evaluate good value for money stock, and to develop new customer services/products of a strongly commercial nature.

Although not necessarily currently in stockbroking, candidates must have a close understanding and deep interest in the stock market. Some knowledge of the Australian scene is essential.

This is not a run of the mill research position. It calls for an unusual combination of qualities, difficult to find in one person: creative, clear, lucid and lateral thinking; a love and care for good English expression; a warm, outgoing, non-backroom personality with good social skills.

Age is not a major consideration but possibly mid thirties to mid forties. A base salary is envisaged of not less than \$440,000 per annum. There is an additional incentive of a 'generous' money in the pocket monthly bonus scheme. If desired, there are definite partnership prospects, but these will have to be earned.

Please write in confidence to Mrs. S. Spencer, Korn/Ferry International Limited, Executive Search Consultants, 2/4 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QL.

2784

MORE SCOPE IN A NEW CONTAINER TRADE

c.£9,250

A major City shipping organisation, part of a multi-national diversified group of companies is soon to start a container service to the Arabian Gulf and is in the process of setting up a new department for its implementation and operation.

As an ambitious young accountant, preferably qualified or alternatively with experience of container ship operations, you will welcome the opportunity to set up and run the accounting function for this important development area.

Your duties will embrace both management and financial accounting as well as

The above position is open to both men and women.

Cripps, Sears

GENERAL MANAGEMENT (Speciality Chemicals)

A PRODUCT LINE MANAGER is required for the Service Chemicals Division which is a subsidiary of one of the world's largest multi-national industrial corporations. The Division manufactures and sells chemicals for the paper, food and other general industries.

Sales, Marketing, Manufacturing and R & D Managers will answer to the Product Line Manager. Sales are already £2m and will double in four years through market expansion and the introduction of new products and technologies.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE:

- Technically qualified. Graduate preferred.
- 35/45 years of age.
- Experienced in the Sales and Marketing of Speciality Chemicals.
- Innovative and commercially competent.
- Capable of professionally managing a young, effective team.

The appointment is located in the London area and a salary of £15,000-£20,000 is proposed.

Please reply in complete confidence (enclosing a curriculum vitae) to:

A. H. & A. EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANTS
45 De Walden Court
39 New Cavendish Street
London W1M 7RA

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Levi's

The European Group is just relocating from Brussels to a new HQ at WEMBLEY PARK.

A FINANCIAL ANALYST is wanted, reporting to the Director of Finance and Administration for a full range of reporting, analysis, planning and co-ordination activities.

The environment will be dynamic, opportunities for growth significant, and everyone loves the product.

Applications with cv from persons 24-30 years with relevant experience, preferably with an American MNC, and with a management accounting qualification or business management degree, to:

Group Personnel Manager,
61 Berners Street, London, W1

Salary range around £9,000 p.a.

John Lewis

For these and other choice opportunities, call
Christopher D. Stock FICB AEC(Lic) or
Anthony J. Ovens MECI on 01-481 6111

£8,000 Accountant Chelmsford

L1607 Excellent prospects System going-on-line

£8,500 Fin. Accountant London

L1605 Prof. 30+ Insurance Brokers

£12,000 Accountant London

L1608 International Company Qual. with insurance exp.

£7,000 Internal Audit Hertfordshire

L1601 Major trading group Pt. qualified ideal

BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL SELECTION

Lloyds Avenue House, 8 Lloyds Avenue, London EC2R 8EP. Telephone: 01-481 6111

INTERNATIONAL TAX DEVELOPMENT

Europe

Internationally recognised as one of the leading firms of chartered accountants operating in Europe, our client has a well established and fast developing international tax practice based in The Netherlands.

To cope with current and projected expansion, they now wish to recruit a qualified chartered accountant with a sound knowledge and understanding of U.K. tax. Ideally, candidates should have an interest in developing their expertise in international tax planning, and while previous experience is an advantage, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn are of prime importance.

The firm's rapid development also provides an additional vacancy for someone who, while having limited experience, displays real enthusiasm for this type of work.

To operate effectively at this level, a knowledge of, or a commitment to learning a second European language is essential.

For more information please contact Hazel Webber B.A. or Richard Norman F.C.A. at 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS. Tel. 01-836 9501, or Barbara Lord M.Sc. A.I.P.M. at 26 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PF. Tel. 041-226 3101, quoting ref. 2971.

£15,000 - £20,000 +

DOUGLAS LLAMBIA'S
Douglas Llambias Associates Ltd.
Accountancy and Management Recruitment Consultants



and at 26 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PF (041-226 3101)
3 Coates Place, Edinburgh EH3 7AA (031-225 7744)

World Business

We're doing so well we need two more ADVERTISEMENT SALES EXECUTIVE

In just two years World Business Weekly, the American magazine published in New York by The Financial Times, has proved itself one of the most striking innovations in international business publishing. With a current circulation of 20,000 (rising fast) and an elite readership among internationally-minded business people in America, it's attracting a growing number of blue-chip advertisers. Now World Business Weekly needs two more London-based Advertising Sales Executives. The London office of WBW controls all sales of advertising outside the Americas—sources include Britain, continental Europe and many overseas territories. At least one of the successful candidates will be required to travel abroad, so an international outlook and some flair for foreign languages would be useful assets.

Salary and conditions are for negotiation but are likely to attract high calibre applications. A commission scheme is in operation. If you can sell advertising space please write, giving details of your experience and background to:

The Personnel Officer, Financial Times,
Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY



David Grove Associates
Book Executive Recruitment
60 Theopside, London EC2V 6AX
Telephone 01-236 0640

OPERATIONS OFFICER neg. to £11,500

North American Bank seeks (2) operations officers to assist manager in day to day administration of operational areas. Applicants ideally aged 30-35 should have gained multi-departmental experience at relatively senior level in International Bank. Usual full range of benefits apply.

PLEASE CONTACT STEPHEN LAWSON ON 01-248 1858/9.

CREDIT ANALYST £7,000 - £11,000

Excellent opportunities with leading international banks for analysts with experience who wish to continue their careers in the analytical field. Current vacancies require experience ranging from 1-4 more years, preferably in an International banking environment.

PLEASE CONTACT DAVID GROVE ON 01-248 1858/9.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK of Eastern England

have a vacancy for an

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMERCIAL LENDING c. £10,750

This newly created position is based at the Regional Head Office in Peterborough.

It is a middle management appointment carrying a commencing salary c. £10,750 as part of a remuneration package commensurate with a leading Banking Organisation and offers considerable scope for advancement.

Applicants must be professionally qualified, have a Clearing Bank background and a sound experience of commercial lending and finance coupled with a proven ability in the assessment of loan applications through the full range from limited liability companies to small business's. The ability to develop and expand this area of operations through the Branch network is of prime importance.

The successful candidate will be presented with both a challenge and an opportunity to demonstrate ability in making a significant contribution to the Banks' future expansion in this field.

Applications, together with a detailed curriculum vitae should be addressed to: Assistant General Manager - Personnel, Trustee Savings Bank of Eastern England, Regional Head Office, Apex House, Oundle Road, PETERBOROUGH, PE2 9NW.



FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

A successful subsidiary of a USA public company based in London and operating in UK and West Europe, in capital goods manufacturing and marketing, requires a Financial Director. Reporting to the Managing Director, he/she will control the entire accounting, information systems and administrative functions using their already substantial experience in the controllership function, acquired in a dynamic medium to large organisation.

Growing involvement in the management of the company.

Qualifications: qualified accountant and relevant degree.

Personal qualities: Enthusiasm, good communicator, commercial acumen. Desire to understand the business through involvement. Under 42.

Benefits: depends on experience, etc. Neg. £14,000, car, pension scheme, etc.

Apply: Managing Director, Box A7305.

Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

Financial Director

Tyneside c. £15,000 plus car

Our client, a private company in the leisure industry based in Tyneside but with interests in other parts of Great Britain, is seeking to recruit a Financial Director.

Applications are invited from qualified accountants aged 28/35 who, ideally, have several years extensive experience in the financial role of a substantial private company. Involvement in the Leisure industry, particularly in statistical control of branch operations as well as computerisation would be useful.

The position provides an opportunity for a well motivated commercial accountant with an entrepreneurial instinct to join a young, dynamic management team and make a substantial contribution to the company's future growth.

In addition to an attractive commencing salary there will be additional fringe benefits connected with a post of this kind. Adequate re-location expenses will be provided.

Interviews will be conducted in London and Newcastle.

This appointment is open to both male and female candidates who should send adequate particulars initially, in confidence, to Peter Lee-Hale, Personnel Services Division of...

Spicer and Pepler Management Consultants, St. Mary Axe House, 56-60 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BJ.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING

PROJECT ANALYSIS/ACCOUNTING

to £8,000

An unusually vigorously expanding city bank seeks someone with good accounting skills and an enquiring mind to assist with its development planning and monitoring.

EUROCURRENCY LOANS ADMIN.

c. £7,000

Quite recently established London branch of international bank offers challenging opportunity to young Banker, 25+, with sound practical experience and preferably supervisory ability.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITIONS (2)

to £5,000

Both of these situations demand sound, even if basic, experience but being based in the Dealing Rooms of actively trading international banks, offer excellent career prospects.

ACCOUNTANCY/RECONCILIATIONS

c. £6,000

This is not just a "ticking and checking" job but one that requires the ability to handle a wide range of accounting aspects and all the attendant queries.

To discuss these or your own particular requirements please telephone Ann Costello or John Chiverton A.I.B.

JOHN CHIVERTON ASSOCIATES LTD.

31, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, W.C.1.
01-242 5841

International EDP Auditor

We wish to engage an International Internal Auditor, to be resident in the United Kingdom, based in Portsmouth.

Responsible through the Senior International Auditor in Portsmouth, to the Chief Auditor, Home Office, Zurich, the successful candidate will undertake computer audits in Europe (including UK), U.S.A., Canada and Australia. European involvement will be dependent on expertise in foreign languages. Visits to each country will normally be for periods of between 1 and 4 weeks duration and will occupy about half the working year.

Applicants, who may be male or female, may have either an accounting or computer background. If accounting, they should have at least 5 years experience of which

2 should have been in an EDP environment. If computing, they should have at least 4 years experience in systems analysis and programming, of which 18 months should have been at a senior level, preferably with financial systems.

Experience of using audit or other packages to extract and control data would be an advantage, as would experience of IBM equipment. The ability to speak French or German, would be a considerable asset.

Salary will be negotiable up to £12,000 depending on experience and could perhaps be more for an exceptional candidate. Additional benefits include subsidised mortgage, non-contributory pension and free Life Assurance. Re-location expenses, if necessary, will be paid by the Company.

For full details please write giving a career history to:

Mr. H.E. Kemm, FCA, MIMC,
Senior International Auditor,
Zurich Insurance Company,
P.O. Box 20,
Zurich House,
Stanhope Road,
Portsmouth, Hants PO1 1DU.



Marketing Investment Services

The London-based Marketing Director—Europe, Middle East, Africa for the international investment management arm of one of the largest and most prestigious American commercial banks is seeking an Assistant.

The successful candidate will travel frequently throughout the territory to call on clients, make product presentations to the group's investment services representatives and assist in the opening of new offices. This post represents a career opportunity with our client and the successful candidate will have considerable scope for enhanced responsibility in the bank in future.

The ideal candidate will have had at least three years experience in commercial banking, merchant banking or stockbroking with an American or European institution; will have an excellent educational background; will be multi-lingual; and will be an ambitious and sophisticated extrovert who can be relied on to maintain absolute discretion. An attractive salary and benefits package is being offered.

Please reply in strictest confidence to:

Box FT/636.
St. James's Advertising & Publishing Co. Ltd.,
Hanway House, Clark's Place, London EC2N 2BJ.

Investment Communicator

Abbey Life Investment Services is responsible for the investment management of assets in excess of one billion pounds on behalf of Group companies including Abbey Life and Abbey Unit Trust Managers.

It is our intention as part of our overall business development plan to generate systematically a greater awareness of the investment products and services available.

In support of this task we wish to appoint someone with a clear understanding of investment matters, to be responsible for the original research and provision of investment reporting and marketing material relating to the Group's complete range of unit linked life and pension funds and unit trusts.

As a newly created position its parameters will be subject to progressive redefinition and it will offer interesting career prospects to a person of initiative.

Excellent analytical skills and the ability to assimilate and communicate complex investment data in a creative manner are prerequisites. Candidates, male or female, are likely to be aged between 24 and 32 and must possess a good Honours Degree.

The successful applicant will be based in our London office at St. Paul's. The initial salary will be in the range of £9,000 to £12,000 per annum plus substantial fringe benefits including mortgage subsidy, non-contributory pension scheme, free life assurance and travel warrant.

Please apply in writing enclosing a comprehensive CV to:

D.G. Glasgow,
Assistant Executive Director,
Abbey Life Investment Services,
1-3, St. Paul's Churchyard,
London, EC4M 8AR.

Abbey Life Investment Services

Company Accountant

S.W.London

Glenhill Furnishings is the furnishing subsidiary of this major private Group and is a market leader offering a comprehensive commercial and residential Design and Furnish service at home and overseas.

We need a qualified accountant aged 30-40 with at least 3 years' experience in a trading or contracting environment. He or she must be commercially aware and able to lead an established department as an active member of the company's small management team.

Responsibilities include the full range of financial management with tight monthly reporting and a close involvement with costing quotations and tendering; export experience desirable. Salary negotiable from £9,000 plus profit share, car and benefits.

Please call or write in confidence with concise career and personal details to: Martin Foran, Personnel Director,

J.E. Lesser and Sons (Holdings) Ltd.,
141-149 Staines Road, Hounslow,
Middlesex. Tel: 01-570 7755.

GLENHILL
THE LESSER GROUP OF COMPANIES

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

The company is part of an international group with a high reputation for quality products.

The Financial Accountant will in addition to the responsibility for the control of the Financial Accounting Department also be responsible for the IBM System 24 Computer.

Applicants should be qualified accountants with preferably industrial experience in manufacturing and distributive companies. Some knowledge of computers is also considered essential.

An attractive salary commensurate with experience together with fringe benefits will be offered. Assistance with relocation where necessary will be given.

Please apply in writing to:
The Financial Director
CARL FREUDENBERG & CO. (UK) LTD.
Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 4DU

AUSTRALIAN STOCKBROKERS INSTITUTIONAL ADVISOR

Mearns & Phillips, a Sydney-based institutional firm of stockbrokers with a long-established UK and Continental business based upon continuous fundamental research, is seeking an additional institutional advisor for its representative office in London.

The prospective candidate must have a proven record as a successful institutional advisor but not necessarily in the Australian market. His role will consist of advising London and Scottish institutions on the Australian market.

The successful applicant is unlikely to be earning less than £15,000 in his present position and will be of partnership calibre.

Please send written applications to:

The London Partner,
Mearns & Phillips Representative Office,
c/o Euro Australian Nominees Pty. Ltd.,
114/115 Warnford Court, Throgmorton St.,
London EC2N 2AT.

A Sydney partner will be in London to conduct interviews with the London partner during the next three weeks.

Corporate Finance Executives

We require young Executives who can contribute to our growing international merger and acquisition, and corporate advisory activities.

We are especially interested in applicants between 26 and 32 years of age with experience in corporate finance. Professional qualifications in Law or Accountancy or a Business school degree would be helpful although not a prerequisite, as would fluency in French, German or another foreign language. A willingness to travel is essential.

Applications will be handled in the strictest confidence and should be sent including a full curriculum vitae and quoting ref: FT/10 to:

T.M.B. Kerrigan, Personnel Manager, Credit Suisse First Boston Limited,
22, Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4BQ.

CSFB

Management Information

Major Financial Institution

Central London

£10,000+benefits

Our client seeks an ambitious qualified Accountant, preferably a graduate aged mid/late 20's with some commercial experience, to strengthen its management accounting team. Major changes and improvements to this function are in hand and you will play an important role in upgrading the computerised budgeting and forecasting for a wide range of activities, evaluating the profitability of business lines and producing other varied reports including cost/benefit analyses. Further prospects are extensive and with a salary negotiable according to age and experience and benefits including a low cost mortgage, subsidised staff restaurant, generous holidays and a non-contributory pension scheme, this is an exceptional opportunity.

Contact David Tod, BSC, FCA, on 01-405 3499 quoting reference DT/414/MIF.

Lloyd Management

Recruitment Consultants

125 High Holborn London WC1V 6QA

01-405 3499

Natural Resources Investment Analyst Major Institution

Our client, a major American Bank with well-established international fund management operations, seeks an additional analyst to cover natural resources within an expanding team. The successful candidate will be aged 25 to 38 with at least three years' research experience of resource or related stocks. It is envisaged that applicants will have an investment background and could have gained their knowledge as Mining, Metals, Chemical or Oil analysts or through coverage of Australia, South Africa, Canada or the North Sea. In addition to high technical ability, well-developed communicative skills are mandatory. The position will involve analysing resource related stocks with an emphasis on Australia, Europe and the U.K. and communicating this research to the Bank's worldwide investment offices. There is scope for broadening into other areas of investment according to interest. A highly competitive remunerative package, including the Bank's excellent benefits, is to be offered, and, due to the rapid growth of funds under management in the U.K., prospects are extremely good. Please contact F.J. Stevens or Anthony Innes who will treat all enquiries in the strictest confidence.

Stephens Associates

International Recruitment Consultants

35 Dove Street, London W1X 3RA. 01-493 0617

Merchant Navy Pensions Administration

has an opportunity for an

INVESTMENT ANALYST

As part of a small investment team the successful applicant will research a wide range of investment opportunities and will work closely with those responsible for the day-to-day management of the portfolios. It is anticipated that the right person will seek advancement to their own area of fund management in due course.

Merchant Navy Pensions Administration is responsible for the investments of the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund and the Merchant Navy Ratings Pension Fund. Together, these amount to over £425 million and new money available for investment is in excess of £60 million per annum.

Ideally, candidates should be in their early twenties and possess a degree in economics or mathematics and/or a suitable professional qualification. Relevant experience in the investment field would be a distinct advantage.

Replies should be sent to Mr. J. M. Bird enclosing a curriculum vitae and quoting current salary level.

Merchant Navy Pensions Administration
Ebbisham House
30 Church Street
Epsom
Surrey KT17 4QF

BANQUE EUROPEENNE DE CREDIT (BEC) the Brussels-based leading CONSORTIUM BANK is looking for a SHIPPING OFFICER

who will be in charge of the Shipping Finance Department of the bank. Applicants should have an extensive banking knowledge and previous experience in shipping finance, preferably with a London-based bank. Language requirements: English with a working practice of French. Applications giving full personal and career details, should be sent in confidence to:



Banque Europeenne de Credit
Personnel Department
Boulevard du Souverain 100
1170 Brussels

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER REQUIRED

for rapidly expanding Oil Servicing Group

Must be capable of working under pressure to a high standard controlling and assisting divisional accountant to produce rapid, accurate and meaningful management accounts. A certain amount of travel, both in U.K. and overseas is involved. Top salary will be paid.

Details to:
Jeffrey M. Pike,
Airwork House, 35 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PB

General Administrator Scottish Opera

Applications are invited from persons of proven business ability and appropriate artistic experience for this important executive position. Salary negotiable. Please write initially in strict confidence to Andrew Rait, Personnel Consultant, Selection Thomson Ltd., 15 North Claremont Street, Glasgow G3 7NR or 38 Park Street, London W1Y 3PF.

PHILLIPS & DREW

Pension Fund Department

Phillips & Drew have a vacancy in their expanding Pension Fund Department for a Manager's Assistant. Duties will include responsibility for the day-to-day administration of Pension Fund Investments.

The ideal candidate will be educated to 'A' level standard with preferably a minimum of one year's office experience. Preferred age 19-21.

We offer a competitive salary, bonus, £1 per day luncheon vouchers and contributory pension scheme. Application forms can be obtained by telephoning or writing to:

A. G. Wright, Staff Manager

PHILLIPS & DREW

Lee House, London Wall, London EC2Y 5AP.

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London WC2

LENDING OFFICER with international banking experience and preferably having a degree in International Banking. Good qualifications and a fluent Asian language essential. Salary £10,000-£12,000. Write to: Mrs. J. Smith, Personnel Manager, Times, 16, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

Rowe & Pitman

Member of The Stock Exchange London

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ANALYST

Rowe & Pitman wish to recruit an experienced analyst in the electrical and electronics sectors. Rowe & Pitman has an extensive involvement in these sectors and this is an important appointment within the firm offering attractive prospects. The ideal candidate will have had several years experience of the sectors although consideration will be given to those with shorter experience or with an industry background. An attractive remuneration package of salary and profit-sharing bonus is offered, together with a non-contributory pension scheme incorporating good life cover.

Apply with full curriculum vitae to:

P. N. Smith, Esq.

MESSRS. ROWE & PITMAN

1st Floor, City Gate House, 39/45 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1JA



FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEALER

to £14,000

Our client, a rapidly expanding American Bank with an active dealing room, seeks to appoint an able, ambitious person to the above role. The position to be filled is that of No. 2 in a small dealing team, and applicants should therefore be able to demonstrate a particularly mature and professional approach to their work.

OPERATIONS AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

£28,500

If you have an international Banking background spanning at least eight years and your experience embraces an in-depth knowledge of documentary credits and collections, and a good working knowledge of foreign exchange duties etc. then requires such a person to fill the role of CO-ORDINATOR in their Operations and Customer Services Area. In addition to the necessary technical expertise the successful candidate must be able to communicate effectively, and tactfully at all levels. Benefits are excellent and include mortgage assistance.

For further details of these, and many other senior appointments for which we are currently retained please contact, in complete confidence MARK STEVENS—General Manager

BANKING PERSONNEL

41/42 London Wall, London EC2C Telephone: 01-588 0781

(RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS)

Assistant Treasurer

West London Five figure salary + car

A multi-national Group operating in 50 countries seeks to recruit an individual to assist with its international treasury operations.

These include the raising of funds, the management of the Group's borrowings worldwide and the Group's foreign currency exposure.

Candidates, male or female and aged 28 to 35, should possess a university degree, professional qualification and previous experience of treasury operations. Equally important are negotiating skills, resourcefulness, and an ability to communicate at all levels.

Applicants should send full cv, quoting ref: AMA 804, to Position Number Supervisor, Austin Knight Limited, London W1A 1DS. Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore companies in which you are not interested should be listed in a separate letter addressed to the Position Number Supervisor.

Austin
Knight
Advertising



ASSISTANT TAXATION MANAGER

North West England

A major U.K. multi-national Company with substantial overseas interests wishes to recruit an Assistant to the Group Taxation Manager.

He or she will be responsible primarily for preparing tax computations and negotiations with the Revenue, but, working closely with the Group Taxation Manager, will also advise senior management on all aspects of Corporation Tax, with particular reference to tax planning and the implications of current legislation on proposed transactions throughout the world.

The successful applicant could either be a young accountant, A.T.I.I., lawyer or former Inspector of Taxes wishing to gain further experience in industry, or a more mature tax specialist with the relevant experience.

Remuneration and conditions are unlikely to be a barrier to the right person.

Please reply in confidence, giving concise personal and career details, including current salary, to:

WALTER JUDD LIMITED (Ref: L291),
(Incorporated Practitioners in Advertising),
1a Bow Lane, London EC4M 9EJ

indicating the names of any companies to whom you do not wish your reply to be sent.

EUROBOND DEALER

Major Eurobond Trading House has a vacancy for Dealing Assistant in early twenties with some previous trading or Stock Exchange experience. Salary negotiable. Write giving details of experience to Ref. No. 345, Streets Financial Limited, 18 Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3HT.

COMPANY NOTICES

NORTHCRAFT INVESTMENTS LIMITED (Unincorporated in Zimbabwe) NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Directors are pleased to advise that at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday, 22nd September 1980, the shareholders present passed without amendment the effect of the resolutions as summarized below:

1. The authorized share capital of the Company is increased by £200,000 to £1,500,000.
2. The present issued share capital of £1,352,392 is to be increased by the sum of £5 for 1 capitalisation issue, so that when the issue is completed the total share capital of the Company will be £1,500,000.

Giving a fully issued share certificate in respect of 100 ordinary shares of £1 each.

The remaining unissued share capital will be available to the Board of Directors to allot to those holding ordinary shares in respect of the Company's future needs.

A proxy need not be held at the meeting if the holder of record is present.

(ii) To be valid forms of proxy, duly completed, must be lodged at the registered office of the Company at least 24 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

(iii) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting, being the eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company, will be held at the offices of the Company, 18 Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3HT, on Sunday, 21st October 1980, at 10.15 a.m. to receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31st December 1979, to elect auditors, to receive the report of the Directors and to transact such other business of the Company as may be properly brought before the meeting.

By Order of the Board
LONRHO ZIMBABWE LTD
Secretary

4-7 Woodstock Street
London W1A 2AF
Telephone: 01-580 2556
25th September 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that during the month of October 1980, the shares of the Company will be suspended from trading on the London Stock Exchange.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the INTERIM DIVIDEND for the year ended 31st March 1981, shall be made on 20th September 1980 and that the date of payment of dividends thereafter shall be determined at the next Board of Directors meeting to be held in November 1980.

By Order of the Board
A. DORON
Secretary

4-7 Woodstock Street
London W1A 2AF
Telephone: 01-580 2556
25th September 1980.

C. ITOH & COMPANY LIMITED
TO THE HOLDERS OF READER DEPOSITS RECEIVED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that during the month of October 1980, the shares of the Company will be suspended from trading on the London Stock Exchange.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY and NON-VOTING ORDINARY shares will be closed to new applications from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to transfers from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to assignments from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to transfers from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to assignments from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to transfers from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to assignments from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to transfers from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY shares will be closed to assignments from 1st October 1980 until 31st December 1980.

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Product and service are well established in the USA. They are even more suitable to the UK market.

Applications—together with an outline of present business interests, to:

Box F1374, Financial Times,
10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

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Frankfurt 0611 230461

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10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

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Thursday September 25 1980

Iraq and the non-aligned

THE IRAQIS had good cause for anger at the months of needling provocation they have endured from Ayatollah Khomeini's regime in Iran. But their response has now gone well beyond the level of taking reprisals. The attack on Abadan and Khorramshahr, and the air strikes against Iranian airports, bear the mark of that purpose and co-ordination that goes with an open act of aggression.

Powerful weapon

As such their action amounts to a total disregard of the central principles of the non-aligned movement—respect for the territorial integrity of other States and a renunciation of military intervention. It is a sad commentary on the collapse of the moral authority of the non-aligned movement that Iraq is about to take over its chairmanship from Cuba—another country all too ready to use its troops on foreign soil.

The doctrine of non-alignment has always risked tumbling into empty rhetoric. But at its most forceful, under the leadership of President Tito of Yugoslavia or of Jawaharlal Nehru of India, it was a powerful weapon for rousing international opinion against the bullying of smaller or more vulnerable States by larger ones. Tito used it successfully to ward off Soviet pressure.

Silence

Member States have certainly seen it as mainly directed against intervention by the superpowers. But the moral opprobrium that would fall on an aggressor State has also been a factor of restraint in regional disputes. There have been countless violations—not least by some of the champions of the movement such as India and China. But the principles were sufficiently intact for the West to press strongly for a condemnation of Russia's invasion of Afghanistan by the non-aligned movement and other representative third world organisations such as the Islamic Conference—and to believe that putting Russia in the dock in this way before world opinion was the best safeguard against the

Russians attempting such an action again.

It will be far more difficult now to get the Russians condemned in such form or at the UN because implicitly such a gesture would be a condemnation of Iraq for invading Iran.

So far the non-aligned, the Moslem States, the Russians and the western allies have been conspicuously silent in passing judgment on Iran's action. Their embarrassment stems from a mixed bag of reasons—dislike of Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, reluctance to offend either Iran or Iraq as major oil producers, and the lack of leverage over either party to the conflict while they still have the arms to hit each other. They are also waiting to see whether President Saddam Hussein can achieve his assumed objectives of toppling the Iranian regime and asserting Iraqi supremacy in the Gulf within a brief space of time.

Precedent

But the stakes are too high for a protracted conflict. The risks of widespread damage to oil installations of the U.S. and the Russians feeling compelled to act in order to prevent a loss of influence and of the unpredictable consequences in the Gulf States—all raise the danger of those who are now seeing participants being drawn in as

Already the UN is becoming increasingly involved. The more it assumes a role in attempting to end the fighting, the more member States will be drawn into judgments on responsibility for the war. Small nations rightly see it as an important principle that big nations do not try and settle disputes by aggression.

Regionally the Iraqi action establishes a further unfortunate precedent after Russia's invasion of Afghanistan. The Iraqis seek regional leadership and are anxious to gain the influence that comes from being chairman of the non-aligned. Cuba went a long way to undermine that influence, which may explain why Iraq believes that it can reconcile seemingly irreconcilable objectives.

Financing new technology

There is one category of public spending on industry which evokes a degree of sympathy, if not wholehearted approval, from Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary. The encouragement of research and development has emerged in discussions within the Government and at the National Economic Development Council as one of the few forms of Government industrial intervention which commands widespread support. Britain's main problem, however, seems not to be so much a lack of investment in research and development in relation to national income—R and D spending seems to be comparable to that in the U.S., Germany, France and Japan. Still less is Britain suffering from a shortage of scientific talent. The problem seems to be the inability of British companies and financial institutions to put finance, technology and production management together efficiently to generate marketable new products.

Joint ventures

The National Research Development Corporation exists partly to help fill this gap in Britain's corporate and financial system, by investing public money in joint ventures on the "technological frontiers" where Britain's private sector financial institutions frequently fear to tread. The difficulties facing any Government initiative to stimulate technological achievements are illustrated in microcosm by the NRDC's annual report, published on Tuesday.

The NRDC's financial success, based mainly on licence income from a number of spectacularly successful projects, particularly in pharmaceuticals, has exposed it to a line of criticism unknown in other parts of the public sector. It is widely accused of spending too little money. In the past ten years it has appeared to many technologists to have adopted an unduly cautious stance and the management's chief embarrassment has been the corporation's inability to spend as much on new projects as it receives from its licence income. Its borrowing limit of £50m, set in 1967, has never been approached and in recent years it has repaid loans to the Department of Industry and ended up with a substantial cash surplus.

Incentives

But between these extremes there are a number of more attractive possibilities. One which the Government is apparently considering is to provide more general assistance for research and development, perhaps in the form of fiscal incentives, while leaving the decisions on specific projects entirely to the private sector. Perhaps the most important general principle is to use a number of decision-making units within the public sector and not to concentrate too much energy and money on grandiose projects.

The Wilson Committee's criticism, that the NRDC does not

"IT'S NO more important than that," Sir Keith Joseph used to say, tossing a coin onto the table when asked for his view of the National Enterprise Board.

"That table top is British industry and the relative importance of the NEB is no bigger than that coin." The second time I saw this demonstration Sir Keith had been Industry Secretary for a few weeks, and the NEB had been promoted from a 2p coin to a 10p coin. But the message was the same, and by the end of last year Sir Keith had done his best to put his view into practice by appointing a new chairman and board and by introducing legislation to trim its activities.

Now Sir Arthur Knight, who became chairman on retiring from Courtaulds 10 months ago in succession to Sir Leslie Murphy, is settling down to his new responsibilities.

The board is already showing renewed interest in high technology areas. Apart from a major bio-technology project, the NEB has holdings in 17 "information technology companies". A Government report on this subject, being published today, will suggest a more co-ordinated approach in Whitehall and more support for Britain's developing potential.

Sir Arthur has already ordered a special study of the NEB's holdings in this area and more investment seems likely. "We have lots of money invested already and quite a lot of things moving."

The NEB's overall role has

been set by the new Industry Act and by revised statutory guidelines which emphasise the Board's curtailed freedom. Besides high technology projects, the Board has to deal with regional investments and loans for small businesses. It is required to work with the private sector whenever possible (as it has sometimes done in the past), to concentrate on ventures which would not otherwise go ahead, and to sell off its investments as soon as they become profitable instead of waiting to reap some of their early earnings.

The NEB must be seen to initiate, manage well, and invest all the time. If it does that it will be seen to be valuable." Sir Keith told me in the first full interview he has given since moving into the NEB last November. "The NEB is in the business of starting things off and getting them away."

A pragmatic man, Sir Arthur sees advantages in having to attract private sector partners whenever possible. "It's a check on our appraisals and provides a mechanism to ensure a project is not a permanent drain on our funds. Either a project is a flop, and you've got a mechanism for killing it off quickly, or it takes off and away it goes into the private sector."

At a time when there has been public concern that the NEB's Immos micro-chip venture might become a Concorde-type drain on Government funds, Sir Arthur explains: "Basically I'm averse to seeing public money invested in manners which open up pressures for money to be put into things that shouldn't survive—one's seen too much of that in the past 25 years."

Sir Arthur seems likely there-

JOHN ELLIOTT talks to Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of the NEB (pictured below).



Trevor Humphries

to guide the NEB around the present Government's policies more successfully than Sir Leslie Murphy who resigned last November, along with all his fellow Board members, when Sir Keith insisted on initiating moves directly to take over the NEB's responsibility for Rolls-Royce.

Rolls has now gone to Sir Keith's personal care, and Sir Arthur has shown that he is not averse to political controversy by insisting that BL should be transferred as well. He says that the NEB cannot play a useful role in determining the future of the motor company, which is politically an extremely sensitive issue.

The transfer is expected to happen later this year when the Government has to decide on BL's future funding. But in practical terms, the NEB has already abandoned its responsibilities. "We are only acting as agents on BL now, relying on (Industry Department) civil servants for advice."

Apart from this slightly controversial attempt to prod Sir Keith into action, Sir Arthur has been carrying out many of the Government's wishes. His achievements for the past 10 months start with the disposal of the Board's assets in ICL, Fairley and Ferranti to raise £113m for the Treasury in last year's sale of State assets. The fact that the NEB was allowed to do this in its own time, rather than being forced into it, is clearly significant to Sir Arthur, who now declares: "Honour is

satisfied."

There have also been a number of other voluntary sales, as well as several closures resulting from the NEB's partial lack of success in the small business area. Apart from the bio-technology venture, there have been very few new investments because most of the time has been spent reviewing existing holdings and discussing the Board's future role.

The best known company

covered in the review has been Immos, the micro-chip venture. Its plans were eventually approved in full by Sir Keith after extensive studies during the early part of the year. The full extent to which the "public is at risk," says Sir Arthur, is about £25m. This is considerably more than the £20m grants already publicised and includes other regional aid, and various borrowing and leasing arrangements.

The NEB tried to raise private investment for Immos earlier this year, but had to accept that the project then looked unattractive. "We are not looking for private sector money now, but by 1983-84 Immos ought to be making money as well as having a production unit, and that will be the time to privatise."

He has already approved the activities of two of the smaller information technology investments (Argon and Data Recording) as part of a general review of the NEB's largest nine or 10 companies which he is conducting personally. When he has completed this, guidelines will be prepared for the NEB's staff to review the remaining 45 during the coming year and several are likely to be sold.

The event of the past year which most pleases Sir Arthur is the £20m Celltech biotechnology project launched jointly with Prudential Assurance, Midland Bank, Technical Development Capital, and British and Commonwealth Shipping. "This would not have happened if it had not been for the NEB. The scientists involved needed a national 'tag' to bring them along. It is difficult to see how the initial dialogue could have been started by the financial institutions alone."

Some of the institutions involved agree with this. They acknowledge that such investments can be difficult because most British scientists (unlike those in the U.S.) neither like the idea of making fortunes for themselves out of their discoveries, nor letting a commercial organisation reap massive profits. The NEB believes that it gains in this situation because it has scientists and other technically qualified people on its staff, and it now aims to launch about two high technology investments a year.

Sir Arthur sees this work as catalytic, encouraging others to do things they might otherwise ignore. We are not in business to do things that would happen anyway, so we may do a lot of work on a project and discover someone else is well advanced on the same road, or that our work sparks someone else to do something fresh. Then the NEB won't go in; but we will still have done a public service. We are only starting things now if we believe there is a real gap. There is no point in us frigging around if the big boys are about to launch something."

Work in the NEB's other two main operating areas—developing industry in the regions and helping small businesses—is not so advanced. Sir Arthur is not yet sure what can usefully be done in the regions. "The problem has been around for 50 years or more and has taken up a lot of public money. I'm think-

ing about what difference the NEB can make."

One deals with business development, which includes the NEB's own corporate plan and its future investments, as well as the longer-term development of its individual companies.

Then there is a separate investment management and monitoring division which keeps in regular touch with the firms the NEB makes on selling a company over the amount of its investment.

But this problem does not appear to be upsetting the generally cordial relationships existing between the board and the Government. Sir Arthur seems happy (apart from the small firm's role and the continuing BL presence) with the longer-term business development he has been given and is showing no signs of seeking a wider brief, even though it might be argued that a State holding company should be playing a more positive role in helping industry through the recession.

Sir Arthur is more concerned with developing new high technology ventures than with propelling up problem companies. "Lame ducks?" he exclaims. "I'm relying on the Government's assurance that there won't be any."

MEN AND MATTERS

Breaking out with a bang

An ungenerous joke doing the rounds suggests that British participants in the Crusader 80 war games can easily be identified because they are the only ones going into battle on bicycles. If it were true, Gordon Wales, joint managing director of MY Dart, would probably be even cheerier than when I spoke to him yesterday.

Better known for its Dawes

cycles, ping-pong balls, darts

and shuttlecocks, Dart has a

considerable interest in the

combative capers going on

across the Channel since many

of the flashes, bangs, and

clouds of smoke from the UK

contingent originate from its

pyrotechnic subsidiary Haley

and Weller. "I believe we are

the only British company out

there," he claims clearly hoping

that NATO observers will con-

clude from the brightness of the

flashes and the loudness of the

explosions that British makers of pyrotechnic stores are best.

Rising on the tide of belliger-

ence sweeping through the

Middle and Far East, export

sales of Dart thunderbolts and

smoke grenades added £1.5m to

the group's turnover in the last

financial year. This year Wales

aims for £3m and is ploughing

income back as fast as it comes in.

Four export salesmen have

recently been appointed, and

£500,000 spent on Haley

and Weller's Derbyshire factory

so far this year, the workforce

there is to be increased from

200 to 250.

Commercial fireworks, the

other mainstay of H and W, are

always popular with the ooh-ing

public, but seasonal demand re-

quires heavy stock financing,

and at today's interest rates

such business is uncomfortable

to say the least. Military train-

ing, however, goes on all the

year round. In the past cash

flow was maintained mainly by

contract work for the Ministry

of Defence, though in recent

times cuts, which started under

the Labour Government, have

forced Dart to look overseas to

find new markets. "We shall do

what we can but the Govern-

ment has got to

shoulder the main burden," Neil Johnson, the council's deputy chief executive, protested bitterly.

Proposals for a £22.5m programme of reclamation, building, and infrastructure improvement have been put to the Department of Industry. "But there's no spare cash here," said Johnson. The council is already levying an extra 5p rate to recoup some of the £3m it will lose over the next two years from the BSC works closure.

Breaking in, it seems, is a company specialty. "I don't think it's secret anymore," Wales confides, "but we supplied the materials that enabled the SAS to get into the Iranian embassy."

Sole survivor

Strong pound and interest costs undermine BAT

DESPITE ADVERSE exchange movements BAT Industries improved operating profit by 2 per cent to £250m for the first half of 1980 over the comparable period of last year. However, after meeting interest costs a third higher at £48m, the pre-tax total slipped £8m to £202m from sales of £3.61bn against £3.25bn.

Overseas earnings in local currencies have remained strong overall but recessionary conditions in the UK depressed results here, the company says.

The attributable group surplus fell 20 per cent from £108m to £86m for the half year but on the inflation-adjusted basis as applied by BAT in the past this became a rise from £86m to £93m.

If the historic results had been translated at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of 1979 the operating total would have been £91m higher and attributable profit £10m better, the directors state.

At the operating level tobacco sales were up 6 per cent to £175m on sales 3 per cent ahead at £2.03bn, but there was a downturn from £45m to £40m from paper sales of £383m (£347m).

Packaging and printing turned in £11m (£8m) on £191m (£195m) sales while the contribution from other activities was unchanged at £24m on turnover of £193m (£122m).

There was no profit (£4m) shown for retailing where most of the turnover and performance falls in the second half, but sales in this division reached £73m (£69m).

Investment income rose £4m to £28m mainly because of a change in the pattern of dividend incomes and higher return on short-term deposits.

Tobacco product sales are expected to maintain their rate of increase in the second half which should give an improvement in operating profits for the year in spite of increased costs, the directors say.

Further improvement in the

Saks and Gimbel's businesses in the U.S. and some recovery in Kohl Food Stores is foreseen.

In the UK, International Stores trading results are expected to continue their improvement, although both its results and those of Argos will be affected by the difficult retail market conditions.

The paper, packaging and printing industries, particularly in the UK but also in Europe and to a lesser extent in the U.S., will be adversely affected by the downturn in these industries and results are expected to be down on the previous year.

Group results in sterling terms will continue to be affected by movements in exchange rates. Subject to this and to any further deepening of the recession beyond that anticipated, operating profits for the year should be similar to those for 1979 although the net attributable profit to BAT Industries

will be adversely affected by higher interest costs and increased tax charges, they add.

On annualised basis operating surplus for the year to December 31, 1979, was £525m and the pre-tax total £453m.

The company is paying a second interim dividend of 8.5p (£6.5p net), making 12.5p to date.

For the previous 15 months a total of 22.34p including a special payment was distributed.

Net profit emerged at £99m (£122m) after tax of £103m (£88m) and before minorities of £1.5m (£1.4m). The tax rate in the second half is expected to be much reduced but even so will still be at a higher rate than for the whole of 1979.

In the U.S. there was a further small decline in tobacco volume and market share in a gradually growing market during the first half. However, price increases resulted in higher turnover. Despite higher costs, this together with better profits from the export business, improved

tobacco trading profit by 6 per cent.

In the UK tobacco showed a substantially higher result on increased turnover and lower promotional expenditure.

Tobacco sales volume in Germany was marginally down, but turnover and trading profit benefited significantly from a price increase. In the rest of Europe, sales again declined slightly and profits were reduced in the face of increasing costs.

In Asia, further substantial gains in tobacco sales and profits were achieved with the major contribution coming from Indonesia, although significant gains were also obtained in Malaysia and Pakistan.

Profits from tobacco in Nigeria fell as a result of lower sales and an increase in costs generally, but elsewhere in Africa profits improved overall.

On the retailing side in the U.S. department store turnover improved by 6 per cent and Saks made a significant gain in turnover which, with improved gross margins, led to a 57 per cent increase in trading profit.

Gimbel's continued to improve its trading results. Overall the results from the U.S. retailing businesses were slightly down.

Retailers turnover in the UK increased despite the disposals.

This growth is partly accounted for by the acquisition of Argos catalogue showrooms and Macmarkets food stores and the opening of a new supermarket and three new supermarkets.

In International Stores, there has also been real growth in existing stores. In trading results continue to improve but substantial costs have been incurred in the major restructuring of the business.

Argos does not contribute to profit during the first half. Here recessionary market conditions and the initial costs of opening eight new stores have affected

turnover per 10p share fell from 17.02p to 14.39p, while an unchanged final dividend of 1.72p net makes a total for the year of 2.731p, against 2.6p previously.

The pre-tax result was struck after a sharp rise in interest charges from £2.36m to £3.78m.

Turnover 115.789 24.424
Depreciation 3.251 2.728
Interest 3.776 2.355
Profit before tax 4.038 8.755
Tax 1.726 2.731
Net profit 2.312 7.751
Minorities 136 8.336
Extraordinary item 203 —

Lex Back Page

HIGHLIGHTS

Giant tobacco group BAT Industries again reported a lacklustre set of figures held back by the strength of sterling and a poor retailing performance although the mainline tobacco business appears to be progressing well enough. Lex also looks at the half time results from squeezed mail order company, Grattan Warehouses, where, despite a profits slide, the dividend has been held. Armstrong Equipment's full year profits are down eight per cent after a very depressed first quarter. But this year the company is looking for a fair bit of growth by turning round some recent acquisitions. Finally Lex considers the implications of yesterday's decision on the Coral casino licences. On the inside pages there is news of two companies approaching their shareholders for more funds. Mills and Allen have come up with a £5m rights issue on the back of improving profits and Ricardo is asking for £2.4m from its equity holders.

Armstrong Equipmt. profits decrease

SECOND-HALF taxable profits

of Armstrong Equipment dropped from £4.45m to £3.73m leaving the total for the year ended June 29, 1980, lower at £8.04m, compared with £8.75m. In the first six months, profits had risen marginally from £4.22m to £4.31m.

Turnover of this automotive components, industrial fastenings and light engineering group, improved from £4.43m to £4.78m for the year.

Earnings per 10p share fell from 17.02p to 14.39p, while an unchanged final dividend of 1.72p net makes a total for the year of 2.731p, against 2.6p previously.

The reported, however, that profits from airfreight activities were well ahead of last year, and the computer companies were continuing to expand. Exports to South Africa were booming and the group's quoted investments, both in the UK and overseas, had shown healthy growth.

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Lex Back Page

Exchange rate in Canada hits Gordon & Gotch

AN IMPROVEMENT from \$45.001 to \$53.424 in pre-tax profits is reported by Sunlight Service Group, laundry and linen hire operator, for the half year to June 30, 1980.

In the context of the difficult trading climate these results can be considered encouraging, say the directors. While business in some of the areas where the group provides services undoubtedly presents difficulties, they expect to maintain progress.

Although export turnover of UK magazines was up by 12 per cent, high overdraft charges, plus the strong sterling rate, were cutting profits on the traditional side of the business.

The chairman said that the case was even more severe for the group associate Hachette Gotch, which handles the export of airfreight copies of Fleet Street newspapers sent to Europe and overseas. He pointed out that every 1 per cent increase in the cost of financing its £1m of exports knocks £35,000 per annum off its profits. Over recent months Gordon and Gotch has had to suffer a share of £12,000

Lex Back Page

per month in losses from this 50 per cent-owned company.

Sir Anthony Anthony said that in Canada the dollar-sterling exchange rate has led to a 40 per cent in sales, and British news papers and magazines are now being distributed at loss. The said that viability of the Canadian subsidiary now depends on domestic sales of magazines with small, but growing circulations.

It is too early to make any forecast of the outcome for the full year, they say, but active steps are being taken to stimulate demand and to maintain control over expenses.

Operating profit improved substantially during the six months, from £5.88m to £8.23m, but this was offset by a considerable increase in the provision for debts which rose from £1.3m to £3.3m.

This rise, the directors say, provided necessary following the faster growth of agents and sales in 1979. They add that a similar provision is likely in the second half, after which they anticipate a return to the lower levels experienced in previous years.

The surplus for the half year was struck after deducting VAT of £15.29m (£8.79m), modernisation expenditure of £788,000, against £820,000.

Tax took £1.06m (£1.28m) leaving net profit down from £1.18m to £0.98m.

Sunlight expands at six months

AN IMPROVEMENT from \$45.001 to \$53.424 in pre-tax profits is reported by Sunlight Service Group, laundry and linen hire operator, for the half year to June 30, 1980.

In the context of the difficult trading climate these results can be considered encouraging, say the directors. While business in some of the areas where the group provides services undoubtedly presents difficulties, they expect to maintain progress.

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SHARE STAKES

Tebbit Group-Bedrey Investments own 500,000 7 per cent convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares (10.416 pence).

Everbond Holdings-Mrs A. I. Channon, wife of Mr Channon, director, disposed of 4,000 shares.

The executors of the will of the late Dr. Hermann Simon have disposed of 253,000 shares.

Sangers Group-Norwich Union Life Assurance now holds 578,873 shares (6.11 per cent).

Evered and Co Holdings-Ashley Industrial Group has bought 50,000 shares making holding 689,000 (11.4 per cent).

Kenn and Scott-Levee holds 32,500 shares (7.73 per cent).

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M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lower Lane Landon EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

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Price

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Div. (p.)

Yield

6.1

6.4

8.1

5.6

6.5

7.1

20.7

3.8

4.7

11.0

18.7

3.0

Companies and Markets

Mills & Allen expansion: seeks further finance

A RIGHTS ISSUE to raise £5.1m is being made by Mills and Allen International, the outdoor advertising and money broking group. Holders registered 1984 are offered 1 new share for every 5 held at 25p.

The company also reports record pre-tax profits for the year ended June 30, 1980 of £10.1m compared with £7.2m on turnover of £47.7m (£24m). Fully taxed earnings per share before extraordinary items are 49.6p (35.5p). A final dividend of 11p is proposed, making 15p for the year (10.5p). Comparative earnings and dividend figures have been adjusted for the December, 1979 scrip issue.

Mills and Allen also revealed yesterday that Britannia Arrow Holdings has sold its 8 per cent holding in the company to a large number of institutional investors at 31.82p per share.

The directors intend to propose a further scrip issue on the basis of one-for-10 held on November 28.

The rights issue may be used first to redeem 3.8m cumulative first preference shares 1984 at £1 each. The rate of dividend on these shares rises from 4 per cent to 18.5 per cent after June 30, 1981. In any event, these shares must be redeemed not later than June 30, 1984 and the

directors believe that growth would be inhibited if they were repaid from existing funds.

The company also has investment commitments to participate in a North Sea seventh round oil exploration consortium and in a commercial television morning broadcasting consortium. If both were successful, the company would have to invest £1.9m. In addition, the company's policy is to expand and develop, by acquisition or otherwise, its existing businesses and to extend its activities into other fields.

Sir Ian Morrow, chairman, says that the current year has started satisfactorily with management accounts for the first two months ahead of last year's levels. Trading conditions in the UK are said to be more difficult, any restriction on tobacco advertising is unlikely to have much impact on outdoor advertising business in the current year.

In 1979-80, all major trading companies achieved improved profitability and overseas activities now contribute 24 per cent of total group profits. The group had a net cash surplus of £4.7m at June 30, 1980 compared with £1.9m a year earlier.

The rights issue has been

Ricardo holds profit-cash call to aid spending programme

Ricardo Consulting Engineers is raising £2.55m by a rights issue on the basis of one-for-four at 370p, to holders registered on September 12.

The company also reports preliminary profit before tax for the year ended June 30, 1980, of £1.2m (£1.1m) on revenue of £5.6m (£7.2m). Earnings per share before extraordinary items are 43.6p (43.4p) or 29.2p (33.7p) on a current cost basis. A final dividend of 4.7p a share (4.25p) is proposed, making 7.7p for the year (7p). The new shares will not be entitled to the final.

The directors expect to recommend a dividend of 8.5p a share on the enlarged capital for the year ending June 30, 1981.

The directors say the issue will eliminate existing bank borrowings and provide a substantial part of the finance for the capital spending programme planned for the next three years. This includes extending the design office, updating test equipment and instrumentation, modernising the plant engineering shop and building a large new test shop.

Commenting on last year's

development and research work related to fuel economy of engines, grew by 27 per cent last year. Consulting revenues rose 18 per cent and Cussons recovered from a first half loss to break even. Substantial rationalisation at Cussons cost £17,000 below the line. The group's return on assets dipped to its lowest level in a decade last year, but was still an impressive 22 per cent. So far this year, the order books of both Ricardo and Cussons are strong enough to support the directors' undertaking of a 10 per cent dividend increase on the enlarged capital. The group will also save the cost of servicing its £1.9m of borrowings, which are to be paid off by the proceeds from the rights issue. The shares faded 15p from their peak for the year yesterday to 44p.

The p/e on an ex-rights price of 42.6p and stated earnings of 9.8 provides adequate support. The prospective ex-rights yield is 2.8 per cent.

Comment
Revenues from Ricardo's main business, contract design,

Shaw & Marvin still in the red

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS indicate that Shaw & Marvin, the merceriser, dyer, and maker of knitwear, and children's outerwear, will show for the first six months of the current year, a loss similar to the £45,512 deficit incurred in the same period of 1979.

Mr. Simon Coorsh, the chairman, tells members in his annual statement that as a consequence of the depressed state of the UK textile industry, certain reorganisational planning took place, along with the reconstruction of the Board in June.

This has resulted in a general tightening up of administrative controls, re-appraisal of the profitability of certain manufacturing processes, and the construction of various productive functions into the company's main premises at Beeston. This has released manufacturing and warehousing accommodation occupied elsewhere, and will result in savings in costs and expenses.

The chairman says it is too early at present to quantify these savings which will not begin to emerge until the second half of the trading year.

As reported September 18, the company suffered a pre-tax loss of £203,517 for the year ended March 31, 1980, against profit of £43,232 previously. No dividend is being paid—last year, there was a final of 0.35p net.

Although the Board mentioned last year that it wished to earmark £100,000 for capital expenditure to modernise certain plant, the company's losses have caused it to delay this modernisation programme.

Mr. Coorsh says this, however, will eventually need to take place and in this respect it is proposed that the company's authorised capital be increased from £150,000 to £200,000, which will give the Board flexibility to raise additional funds.

He is hopeful that with these various reorganisations having taken place, the company will reap benefit in the current year. At present, there is an indica-

tion of an upturn in trade resulting in an improved order book.

At March 31, 1980, shareholders' funds had fallen from £296,008 to £164,058. Bank borrowings were up to £303,924 (£246,562).

Breedon margins narrowing

The board of Breedon and Cloud Hill Lime Works states in its interim report that although turnover and profits—reported on September 20—for the half-year to July 31, 1980 were both at record levels, reduced demand in both the public and private sector of the construction industry has resulted in increased competition. Consequently, there has been a narrowing of margins.

A final dividend of at least 5p is forecast to make the total not less than 7.625p (7.5p). The chairman says it is too

early to present to quantify these savings which will not begin to emerge until the second half of the trading year.

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Comment

Revenues from Ricardo's main business, contract design,

Ferry Pickering edges up

Taxable profits of Ferry Pickering Group, the printing, packaging and publishing concern, held steady in the second six months resulting in a surplus for the year to end-June plus £1.42m, compared with £1.31m. Sales for the 12 months rose marginally from £7.55m.

A final dividend of 1.6p makes the year's total 2.6p net, compared with the equivalent of 2.2p after allowing for the one-for-one scrip issue.

Mills and Allen's 32 per cent increase in operating profit is the more impressive considering the group's growing dependence on overseas activity. In money broking, for example, where profits were up by nearly 50 per cent, more than half of the business is done in dollars and so the Hanlow Mayer subsidiary has had to overcome an 8 per cent deterioration of the dollar's value compared to sterling. The printing side has had trouble with labour and margins and the Shepperton film studio made less profit because of increased spending on maintenance. The other contributor to the 14 per cent decline in the other category was the insurance broking business bought in March 1979. On the plus side, screen advertising was strong. The current year is hard to forecast because advertising bookings do not extend beyond Christmas. The yield is 6.8 per cent and the fully-taxed ex-rights p/e a modest 6.2 at 326p, down

from £760,746 to £609,250.

Undistributed profit carried forward this time amounted to £3.94m, compared with £3.75m which included a prior-year adjustment of £670,619. Retained profit for the year was down

from £1.87m to £1.85m (£1.87m restated).

The profit for the 12 months included interest and rents received of £1.657 (£1.575). Last

time's attributable surplus in

cluded a profit from the sale of freehold property amounting to £14.22m.

As usual, the directors intend

Overheads cut midway profit at H. Samuel

REFLECTING increases in the overhead costs of running its retail outlets, profits before tax of H. Samuel, multiple jeweller, slipped back to £2.82m in the first half to August 2, 1980, compared with £3.22m.

A final dividend of 1.6p can only be declared on an interim dividend in January; in their report for last year, they forecast that the January 1981 interim would be substantially higher than the 1979-80, which represented 6.725p net paid for the first half of 1979-80, which represented

one small a proportion of the 2.2p total distribution for the year.

Comment

Taking the temperature from interim results at H. Samuel is hazardous, since so much hangs on the Christmas half when the company made almost four-fifths of last year's profits. The half-year figures look reasonable, particularly since they come in the wake of well-publicised new year gold price rises which boosted the end of Samuel's last accounting period. There are hints, however, of potential problems which may have contributed to the mark-down of the shares by 6p to 162p. Overheads are high—property and

water rates alone added £250,000 to costs half on half—and bite when volume falters. Turnover for the last half, while undisclosed, was maintained including VAT, therefore very slightly down allowing for last year's tax write-off.

The directors explain that the NGA dispute caused losses to be made in April and May and this continued to have an adverse effect on trade in the following two months.

During this period, large contracts already in hand were lost to overseas competitors.

Turnover for the half year was £3.21m (£2.85m), while profits were struck after exceptional debits down from £94,000 to £83,000 and acquisition financing interest charges.

Tax took £50,500 (£76,000) and stated earnings per 20p share fell from 2.95p to 1.17p on increased capital. The net interim dividend is 0.72p (0.96p adjusted for one-for-four scrip issue)—last year's total was 2.4p after adjusting for the scrip. There was also a £270,000 rights issue in 1979, when pre-tax profits totalled £318,100.

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UK COMPANY NEWS

MINING NEWS

Oaky Creek's Australian ownership must rise

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

THE AUSTRALIAN Government has demanded 50 per cent of domestic ownership of the big Oaky Creek coal development in Queensland—which is reckoned to have some of the best coking coal in Australia—before it will approve the project.

Mr. John Howard, the Australian Treasurer, has said that the venture will be given the go-ahead if the joint venture partners provide an unequivocal undertaking that the required level of Australian equity ownership will be reached by the time the first coal shipments are made, probably in 1982.

Oaky Creek is planned to come on stream with an initial capacity of 2m tonnes and contains at least 16m tonnes recoverable by open pit methods and a further 400m tonnes which would require underground working.

The major partners are the U.S. Houston Oil and Minerals (38 per cent) and Australia's MLM Holdings (40 per cent). In addition Etel-Hoogovens of Holland is taking 9.5 per cent interest, Italy's Finisterre-Fidral 7.5 per cent and Empresa Nacional Siderurgica of Spain 5 per cent. In return, the European companies all have commitments to take Oaky Creek coal.

Over A\$50m (£39.3m) has already been spent mainly by Houston and MLM on developing the project and finding markets for Oaky Creek coal, with development expected to start in January.

Houston tried unsuccessfully for a long time to find Australian equity before teaming up with MLM which is 49 per cent-owned by Asaro of the U.S.

Placer's gold mine prospect in Australia

CANADA'S Placer Development has issued further details on gold exploration at its properties in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

At the 100 per cent-owned Kidston low-grade gold-silver property in Queensland, the diamond drilling programme is nearing completion and a study to determine the feasibility of production will be carried out over the next several months.

The first 47 diamond drill holes in the southwestern "Wise's Hill zone" indicate estimated mineable open pit reserves of 33.7m tonnes averaging 1.87 grammes gold and 2.17 grammes silver per tonne at an overall waste to ore ratio of 1.53 to 1.

An additional 41 holes, located mostly in the same zone, have indicated an estimated further 5.3m tonnes averaging 1.5 grammes gold and 2.7 grammes silver per tonne.

The company said the mineralisation occurs around the periphery of an elliptical shaped zone of brecciation. A limited amount of drilling in the relatively unexplored north and east side of the breccia suggests possible extensions computed at 17.8m tonnes with an average grade of 1.65 grammes gold.

Seltrust's farewell

mining finance house which was recently acquired by British Petroleum, reports its last half-year results as a public company. Net profits for the six months to June 30 come out at £10.8m compared with £6.2m in the first half of last year and the 1978 total of £13.7m.

Turnover ended June 30 1980 £m
Turnover 147.4 147.4
Operating profit 14.5 12.6
Div. & assoc. income 9.9 3.3
Interest receivable 4.8 3.0
Interest payable 2.5 2.5
Admin. expenses 2.7 2.3
Exploration 1.6 2.0
Interest payable 5.5 4.4
Exchange differences 0.2 0.3
Taxation 22.7 22.4
Total profit after tax 11.2 5.5
Profit int. & extrado.
item 0.6 0.2
Attributable 10.9 6.2
Earnings per share 2.1p 1.9p

No dividend is being declared; former shareholders who accepted the offer of BP shares will receive the latter company's interim of 6.25p which was declared on September 4.

Major factors in the latest rise in Seltrust's income have been the start of dividend payments by the Unisell gold mine in South Africa and revenue from British Scatter Constructors prior to the sale by Selection Trust of its interest in that company.

Swedish Match strikes gas

The price of Swedish Match shares rose by Skr 3 to Skr 38 (SS1p) on the Stockholm Stock Exchange yesterday after the company had confirmed a second gas strike on a small island it owns in the Mississippi River, reports William Dullifore from Stockholm.

Swedish Match could not say how large the discovery was but expected gas to be produced in commercial quantities. Gas and oil condensate is already being produced from the first well drilled on the island in 1978. The latest strike was made with the third well drilled.

The Swedish group acquired Profit Island, Louisiana, in 1962 as a matchstick plantation for its U.S. subsidiary Trans Match. Drilling was started on the island after gas had been found in the nearby Tuscaloosa field.

Swedish Match transferred the exploitation rights to Hunt International in return for a 20 per cent royalty on the revenues. Production from the first well is expected to give Swedish Match an income of between \$3m and \$5m this year.

BIDS AND DEALS

Starwest wants more Gough Cooper details

Starwest Investment Holdings, the private company controlled by Mr. Remo DiPre, is seeking additional information from Gough Cooper, the housing concern, in order to assess whether there is "justification for an improvement in the terms of the offer" already made for the company.

Starwest—house builder, property developer and generator manufacturer—acquired 29.5 per cent of Gough in a dawn raid on July 22. On September 10 it launched a full-scale bid for the company at £130p cash per share.

Two weeks later Gough's shares were suspended at 127p on the news that it had received an approach which might lead to a higher offer being made for the company.

Starwest—which is seeking a meeting with the Gough board—said yesterday that no further bid has yet materialised although it is understood that some information has been supplied to another possible bidder by Gough.

Gough intends to increase its interest in Sams-Dito to 20 per cent at a later date.

REO STAKIS

In a circular giving details of the proposed acquisition of Dugaldson Estate the Reo Stakis Organisation says that since the interim report for half year to March 31, 1980, the economic

recession has deepened and this is affecting current trading. In spite of this there is every chance that the results for the full year will be at least as good as last.

NEW SUBSIDIARY FOR KCA IN U.S.

KCA International, the UK-based drilling and oil services company, has formed a new subsidiary in Houston, Texas. KCA Minerals Inc., to spearhead the group's sales of barite in the Western Hemisphere.

The first supplies of Chinese barite for the American market are due for delivery in November.

Thorn EMI and Scottish and Newcastle Breweries announce that the principal conditions to the agreement for the sale of the EMI Hotels and Restaurant division to Scottish and Newcastle have now been satisfied.

The cash consideration of £3m has been paid to EMI, and final completion is expected in December.

It is also confirmed that Thorn-EMI has acquired a 30 per cent stake in Sams-Dito, a French company specialising in the manufacturing of kitchen equipment for hotels, schools, hospitals and the food industry.

Thorn intends to increase its interest in Sams-Dito to 20 per cent at a later date.

SHAFTMEAD BUYS

Mr. Graham Noakes and Mr. John Boulton, directors and joint shareholders of Shaftmead have purchased from St. Regis Paper Company (UK) the assets, business and goodwill of Partridge and Love at Wick, Bristol.

The business will continue to trade under the name of Partridge and Love. Current turnover exceeds £2m per annum.

ESPERANZA

Rothschild Investment Trust is now beneficially interested in 3,476,339 shares (29.5 per cent) of Esperanza and Guinnes Peat Group has disposed of an interest of 1,451,973 shares. Accordingly, the latter's interest is now reduced to 1,064,002 (9 per cent).

ALVA IMPROVES AND PAYS MORE

Taxable revenue of Alva Investment Trust increased from £105,000 to £138,243 in the half year to August 31, 1980 on gross income of £181,037, compared with £114,210.

The interim dividend is increased from 4.025p to 4.75p net. Last time a final of 5.075p was paid from pre-tax profits of £220,731.

Copies of the Annual Report for 1980 may be obtained from the Company Secretary

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H. Mackay into midway loss

A TURNAROUND from pre-tax profits of £374,000 to losses of £336,000 is reported by Hugh Mackay and Co., carpet manufacturer, for the first six months of 1980, and the directors are omitting the interim dividend.

They state that steps have been taken to correct the imbalance caused by difficult trading conditions and swing the company progressively back to profits in 1981. For 1979, there was a taxable surplus of £540,000 and dividends totalling 3.82p.

In April the directors said the first two months of the year are traditionally minimal profit-wise but that subsequent months can and usually do right such matters. They now say that about two thirds of the loss occurred in the first quarter.

Turnover slipped from £4.86m to £4.52m and the loss included profits on investments of £55,000 (£36,000).

After a tax credit of £175,000 (£185,000 charge), the loss per 25p share is shown as 6.51p against earnings of 7.24p.

The number of employees has been reduced by 150 as a result of a review of manufacturing levels and natural wastage. The consolidation of plant on the Dragonville factory site, where the company owns ample freehold land for future development, should be completed in early 1981. The company said the

mineralisation occurs around the periphery of an elliptical shaped zone of brecciation. A limited amount of drilling in the relatively unexplored north and east side of the breccia suggests possible extensions computed at 17.8m tonnes with an average grade of 1.65 grammes gold.

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mineralisation occurs around the periphery of an elliptical shaped zone of brecciation. A limited amount of drilling in the relatively unexplored north and east side of the breccia suggests possible extensions computed at 17.8m tonnes with an average grade of 1.65 grammes gold.

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RETURN TO BLACK JEOPARDISED

Interest rates threaten Chrysler

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

MR. LEE IACOCCA, chairman of Chrysler, has warned that the recent sharp rises in U.S. interest rates could jeopardise the company's planned return to profitability in the fourth quarter of this year.

Mr. Iacocca, speaking at the launch of the company's new models in Washington, said that the threat of even higher interest rates was his "biggest concern. It could stop us dead in our tracks."

Chrysler, which lost almost \$1bn in the first half of the year, and which only remains in business because of U.S. Government

ment aid, is especially vulnerable to any impact of higher interest rates on car buying this autumn.

But other motor companies, along with businessmen in other interest-rate sensitive industries, such as construction, are also becoming increasingly worried that the unchecked rise in the cost of borrowing in the last two months is underpinning the fragile economic recovery which has been portrayed in most but not all Government statistics since this autumn.

Next year, Mr. Iacocca says he expects Chrysler to take about 12 per cent of the U.S. car market, against a probable 10 per cent for this year—an extremely ambitious target, but

Mr. Iacocca said he actually expected the prime lending rate, now at 12.5 per cent to fall back

after it crossed the 13 per cent threshold, and was therefore sticking to his forecast that Chrysler would make money in the fourth quarter.

Other industries already ringing alarm bells about interest rates include housing, where surveys have already shown a return to the pessimism of late-May among builders, whose customers have faced a jump in home mortgage rates from 11.5 to 13.75 per cent in some parts of the country. These factors have not yet fed into actual production statistics in either housing or the motor industry, but will probably start to do so in October—just before the U.S. general election.

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Warner-Lambert expects lower earnings

By Our Financial Staff

WARNER-LAMBERT, the ethical drugs and medical instrument group, expects earnings from operations in the first nine months of this fiscal year to be down by about 7 per cent from last year.

But the company said that net income, including currency adjustments and the effect of one-time gains, will increase by about 20 per cent from the total for the comparable period.

For the first nine months of last year, the company earned \$1.54 a share or \$122.8m after an extraordinary charge.

The Board also said it expects third quarter operating income to be 18 per cent below the \$74m reported for the September quarter in 1979.

Net income will be sharply ahead of the \$4.7m, or 6 cents a share, reported for 1979's third quarter after an extraordinary charge of 45 cents a share for the phasing out of a major plan in Detroit and 2 cents a share for currency translations.

The company also said it expects a significant improvement in fourth quarter operating earnings.

Warner-Lambert still anticipates that it will end 1980 with a modest increase in operating income before unusual items and currency adjustments.

It expects net income for the year to be substantially higher than 1979, when it earned \$123.3m or \$1.55 a share.

Mr. Ward S. Hagan, chairman, added that international sales in the health care and consumer areas continued to outpace domestic sales in the third quarter.

Staats backs bank moratorium

By OUR NEW YORK STAFF

MR. ELMER STAATS, the U.S. Comptroller General, yesterday called for a moratorium on foreign bank takeovers of large and medium-sized U.S. banks.

Mr. Staats, whose General Accounting Office staff recently published a detailed report on foreign bank activity in the U.S., said that foreign banks were being offered expansion opportunities not open to large U.S. banks.

Foreigners currently controlled about 13.7 per cent of U.S. banking assets, he said, a figure which would rise to 16 per cent if deals now in the pipeline were consummated.

Mr. Rosenthal said that if the Congress could not agree on a moratorium, Federal banking

regulators should slow down their consideration of takeover applications.

It appears unlikely at present that the current hearings in the House will lead to any firm Congressional action on foreign bank takeovers before the general election in November, although Mr. Rosenthal indicated yesterday that he was not prepared to let the matter die.

It is unlikely, in any event, that the Midland-Crocker proposal would clear federal regulators, even working at normal speed, before next summer.

Pan Am staff plan approved

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

PAN AMERICAN World Airways has reached agreement with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters that will integrate Pan Am and former National Airlines ground staff by October 26.

The agreement, involving employees in 53 U.S. cities and over 200 job classifications, permits integration of seniority lists of Pan Am and former National Airlines employees.

Pan Am acquired National on January 7 for \$333.6m after a three-way bidding contest with Eastern Airlines and Texas International Airlines. The takeover of National's 39,000-miles of route serving 41 cities in the U.S. and Europe gave Pan Am a long-awaited domestic network.

Pan Am said that, as a result of the agreement, Pan Am's worldwide reservations system

will handle all airline bookings.

Ground operations of Pan Am and National at U.S. airports will function as one. Ground equipment will be painted in Pan Am livery and National's logos will be replaced with Pan Am's.

All of National's DC-10 and Boeing 727 aircraft will be repainted with Pan Am's blue and white colours and the interiors redone in Pan Am style.

Mr. William Genoese, chairman of the Teamsters' Pan Am committee, said: "The Teamsters pledge our full support to make the new Pan Am viable."

Mr. Martin Shugrue, Pan Am's industrial relations vice-president, said the agreement will permit "vital integration of the two airlines." Pan Am had previously reached a seniority

agreement with the Transport Workers Union.

The airline said that the 16,200 Teamsters and 2,000 employees include reservation agents, mechanics, ground service crews, airport passengers service personnel, port stewards, commissary workers and supply clerks.

• PROCTOR AND GAMBLE has been sued in a multi-million dollar class action that claimed the company's Rely tampon is dangerous to use.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco followed removal of Rely from the market earlier this week.

The action, purported to be on behalf of all women who use Rely, was brought by two northern California women.

The suit requested recovery of the entire sales revenue

All of these securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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New Court Securities Corporation

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Thomson McKinnon Securities Inc.

Yamaichi International (America), Inc.

Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru International, Inc.

Sanyo Securities America Inc.

Dollar Eurobond prices edge up

By Francis Ghilie

INTERNATIONAL BOND

markets remained very quiet

yesterday despite the continuing

conflict in the Middle East.

The dollar fell back a little

on foreign exchanges

but prices of straight dollar

bonds followed the New York

market and edged up by

about 1 of a point on the day.

In the D-Mark sector prices

slipped by about 1 of a point

on the day while Swiss Franc

bonds fell 1 of a point.

The new 8½ per cent 15-year

convertible for Esso

was quoted at a discount of 1 of a

cent from its indicated price

of par in pre-market trading

yesterday. The lead manager

of this \$20m issue is Kidder

Peabody International.

The \$10m 15-year conver-

tible for Huffy was priced at

par by the lead manager,

Merrill Lynch International.

After the conversion premium

had been set at 12½ per cent.

In early trading yesterday it

was quoted at a discount of 14

per cent in the middle.

A Swiss 20m convertible for

Tayo Yoden is being arranged

by Credit Suisse. The five-

year private placement carries

an indicated coupon of 5½ per

cent.

In New York, a recent

agreement by the Securities

and Exchange Commission to

speed up the issue of

foreign bonds will be

referred to the Senate

Committee on Banking and

Commerce.

The distribution of the

shares will be made by

a syndicate of 12 underwriters.

The lead manager is Kidder

Peabody International.

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Peabody International.

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will be made by a syndicate

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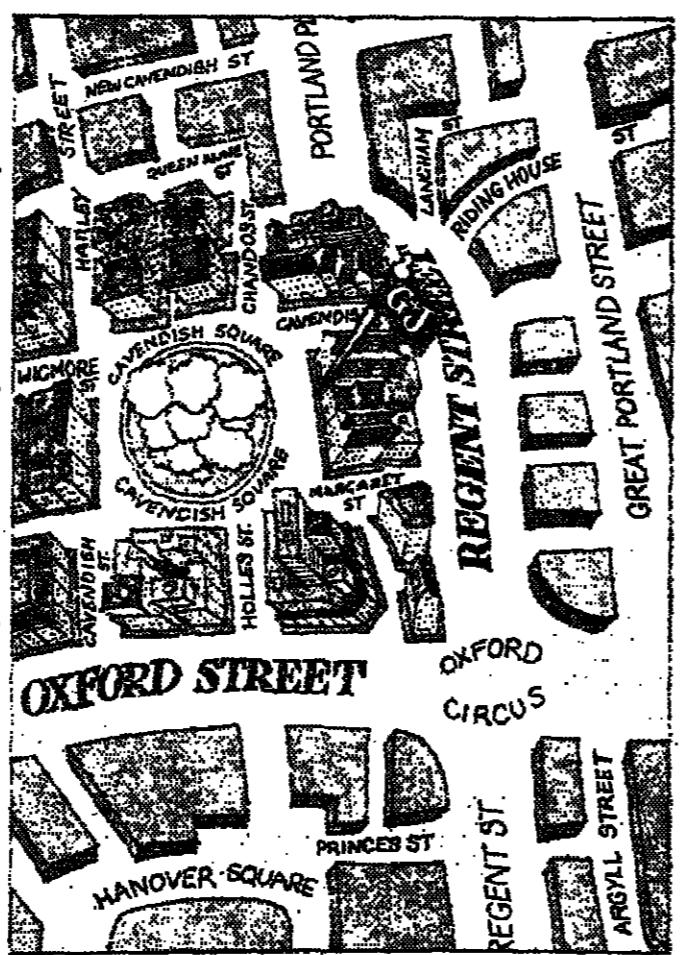
GERMANY

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CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

Pound eases

The foreign exchange market paused for breath yesterday after the sharp movements seen earlier in the week. Lack of fresh news from the Middle East left the market trendless, and some profit taking took place. Without further momentum there was some unwinding of long dollar positions, while sterling fell back against European currencies mainly in reaction to its recent rise. However sterling's undertone remained firm, underpinned by North Sea oil and high interest rates, and its trade weighted index finished at 76.3, down from 76.7 on Tuesday, but still above last Friday's figure of 75.6.

Against the dollar, sterling opened at \$2.4050-2.4040, and rose briefly to \$2.4068-2.4075, before coming back to \$2.4050. Where it stayed for most of the day. Towards the close of business the pound started to ease, and closed at \$2.3990-2.4000, a fall of 30 points from Tuesday. Against the French franc it fell to FFr 9.9850 from Tuesday's five and a half year high of FFr 10.0525, and was lower in terms of the D-mark at DM 4.3100 compared with DM 4.3550.

The dollar finished on or around its lowest level of the day, closing at DM 1.7945 against DM 1.8115 and SWF 1.6430 from SWF 1.6610. The Japanese yen also gained ground with the U.S. unit finishing at Y214.50 compared with Y218.25 previously. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's trade weighted index fell from 84.3 to 83.5.

D-MARK One of the weaker members of the European Monetary System, and unsettled just recently by Middle East unrest, falling to a four year low against sterling, and its lowest level against the dollar since May.

The D-mark recovered in Frankfurt yesterday as the market lost momentum awaiting further developments in the Iran/Iraq conflict. Most currencies

were fixed lower, notably the dollar, which fell to DM 1.8006 from DM 1.8145, and sterling to DM 4.3300 from DM 4.3630.

Within the EMS the French franc was fixed lower at DM 4.0308 per FFr 100 against DM 4.0855, and the Dutch guilder slipped to DM 91.85 per FFr 100 compared with DM 92.01 on Tuesday. On the other hand, the Belgian franc was marginally firmer at DM 6.238 per BFf 100 from DM 6.231, and the Danish krone rose to DM 32.33 per DKr 100 from DM 32.35.

JAPANESE YEN Still firmer than a month ago, having been helped by the most weakness of the dollar, and a fundamental improvement in the Japanese economy. Just recently however, fears over diversion of oil supplies due to the Middle East conflict have seen the yen lose ground quite sharply. The yen continued to lose ground in Tokyo yesterday, with the dollar closing at Y218.20, its highest level this month, and compared with Y212.55 on Monday. Markets were closed on Tuesday for a holiday. The U.S. unit opened at Y217.50 and fell back to Y215.10 in active trading. Later in the day it touched a high of Y218.80 as tension increased in the Middle East.

The D-mark recovered in Frankfurt yesterday as the market lost momentum awaiting further developments in the Iran/Iraq conflict. Most currencies

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept. 24	Day's spread	Closes	One month	Three months	Four months	Five months	Six months
U.S. 2.3880-2.4075	2.3880-2.4075	1.15-1.05 pm	5.80-5.22-5.03 pm	3.47			
Canada 2.7940-2.8050	2.7950-2.7969	1.63-1.53	6.76-7.20-7.10 pm	3.47			
Netherlands 4.47-4.74	4.47-4.67	3-22 pm	6.41-6.57 pm	3.45			
Belgium 69.00-69.10	69.00-69.10	30-26 pm	6.24-6.55 pm	3.47			
Denmark 1.1428-1.1550	1.1428-1.1540	par/Friore dis	7.73-7.85-8.15 dis	1.85			
W. Ger. 4.30-4.35	4.30-4.31	1.15-1.10 pm	6.48-6.58-6.92 pm	2.28			
Portugal 11.95-12.00	11.95-12.00	100 pm-dis	7.69-7.85-8.10 dis	1.85			
Spain 77.25-78.00	77.25-77.35	70-115c dis	6.30-6.55-6.90 dis	1.85			
Italy 20.07-20.62	20.07-20.62	8-10pm dis	5.26-5.55-5.90 dis	1.85			
Norway 11.83-11.70	11.83-11.70	4-22pm dis	5.27-5.47 dis	1.85			
France 3.87-4.00	3.87-4.00	4-15pm dis	5.11-5.34 pm	3.40			
Sweden 3.12-3.20	3.12-3.20	1-15pm dis	5.15-5.45 pm	1.85			
Austria 31.82-32.00	31.82-32.00	1-25pm dis	5.18-5.38 pm	2.28			
Switzerland 3.94-4.01	3.94-4.01	4-22pm dis	4.91-5.15 pm	1.85			
		Balcan rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 89.85-90.00.					
		12-month forward dollar 2.85-2.85pm	12-months 3.25-3.15pm				

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept. 24	Day's spread	Closes	One month	Three months	Four months	Five months	Six months
U.K. 2.3880-2.4075	2.3880-2.4075	1.15-1.05 pm	5.80-5.22-5.03 pm	3.47			
Ireland 2.0870-2.0950	2.0870-2.0950	0.85-0.85 pm	3.44-3.78-3.75 pm	3.47			
Wales 1.7880-1.7910	1.7880-1.7910	0.15-0.15 pm	3.44-3.78-3.75 pm	3.47			
Belgium 28.78-28.91	28.78-28.91	1-15pm dis	4.22-4.71 pm	1.85			
Denmark 5.5825-5.5815	5.5825-5.5815	2.60-3.1000 dis	6.14-6.85-7.25pm	5.10			
W. Ger. 1.7940-1.7950	1.7940-1.7950	0.36-0.32 pm	2.27-2.55-2.51 pm	5.00			
Portugal 45.90-46.10	45.90-46.10	20-35c dis	6.60-6.95-7.05 dis	5.00			
Spain 73.45-73.55	73.45-73.55	68-90c dis	12.25-15.20-15.00 pm	5.07			
Italy 18.75-18.90	18.75-18.90	1-15pm dis	2.68-2.85-2.85 pm	1.85			
Norway 4.8550-4.8565	4.8550-4.8565	0.50-0.50 pm	2.68-2.85-2.85 pm	1.85			
France 4.1780-4.1790	4.1780-4.1790	2.20-2.30-2.30 dis	2.72-2.85-2.85 pm	1.85			
Sweden 4.1550-4.1563	4.1550-4.1563	2.20-2.30-2.30 dis	2.67-2.80-2.80 pm	1.85			
Japan 21.40-21.50	21.40-21.50	4.00-4.00 pm	2.65-2.80-2.80 pm	1.85			
Austria 12.72-12.75	12.72-12.75	12.72-12.75 pm	2.65-2.80-2.80 pm	1.85			
Switzerland 1.79-1.80	1.79-1.80	1.30-1.30 pm	2.65-2.80-2.80 pm	1.85			
		UK and Ireland rates quoted in U.S. currency.	Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar and not to the individual currency.				

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Sept. 24	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes	Sept. 25	Bank of England Index	Special Drawing Rights	European Currency Unit
Sterling 76.5	-2.5		15	56.54522	5.652278	5.652278
U.S. dollar 55.5	+0.5		16	5.642102	5.642102	5.642102
Canadian dollar 80.6	-17.5		17	1.582925	1.582925	1.582925
Austrian schilling 119.4	-1.0		18	1.059561	1.059561	1.059561
Swiss franc 1.1850	+0.05		19	0.757205	0.757205	0.757205
Danish krone 106.0	-1.0		20	1.557115	1.557115	1.557115
Deutsche mark 153.9	+45.5		21	1.510115	1.510115	1.510115
Swiss franc 197.4	-17.5		22	1.575710	1.575710	1.575710
Swiss franc 197.4	-17.5		23	1.581215	1.581215	1.581215
Danish krone 100.8	-1.0		24	1.511710	1.511710	1.511710
French franc 120.3	+30.5		25	1.506227	1.506227	1.506227
French franc 120.3	+30.5		26	1.506227	1.506227	1.506227
Italian lira 52.6	-51.5		27	0.594563	0.594563	0.594563
Yen 132.4	+30.5		28	0.594563	0.594563	0.594563
		Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971 (Bank of England Index = 100).				

CURRENCY RATES

Sept. 24	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japan's Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
<tbl

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Thursday September 25, 1980

European Plastics

Despite the present chaotic market conditions facing European plastics producers, the longer-term outlook for the industry, and for British companies in particular, is far from bleak as manufacturers anticipate a steady, underlying growth in demand during the 1980s.

Industry facing severe decline

By Sue Cameron
Chemicals Correspondent

TODAY, THE European plastics industry is facing up grimly to a savage and seemingly protracted slump, with demand and prices spiralling steadily downwards.

None of the major polymer producers in the UK, or on the Continent, is making a profit and the downturn in business appears set to continue. Even the most optimistic companies do not expect volume sales to reach the levels of last year until 1982.

Perhaps one of the most surprising aspects about the industry in its present plight is that there are optimists to be found within some of its leading concerns. They are not people who pretend that a miracle is just around the corner and that, in a few months' time, a near catastrophe will have given way to a boom. But they do stress that the plastics industry in 1980

Downturn

The seeds of the current dramatic downturn in business were sown last year when the plastics industry in Western Europe enjoyed an all-too-brief respite from years of over-



Plastic cupolas top Cardiff's new space-age building. The flying saucer shaped structure, made by ConCargo—a member of the BTR group, one of the UK's largest plastics manufacturing groups—houses air-extraction equipment on the roof of Cardiff's new £12m Radiochemical Centre.

capacity and weak prices. The best their breasts over the raw revolution in Iran and the ensuing oil crisis pushed up the price of naphtha (the oil-based raw material that is vital for polymer production) to unprecedented heights. And plastic product prices rose on the back of the naphtha cost increases. Everything that bore a price tag went up—from the high tonnage plastics materials to the humble plastic shopping bag.

During 1979, naphtha prices doubled and, by the end of the year, the spot price had reached the undreamed level of \$400 a tonne. The Rotterdam spot market price overtook naphtha contract prices and drove them upwards too. Plastics producers

had pushed through, and despite the fears of oil and naphtha shortages, plus the fortuitous breakdowns in a number of plastics plants that had briefly banished the depressing effects of over-capacity, their profit margins were still not wholly adequate.

The polymer manufacturers knew the good times could not last and most of them expected the downturn to come at the start of this year, bringing a drop in demand of perhaps 10 per cent or, at worst, 15 per cent. But the tide continued to flow in their favour right through the first quarter of 1980. They were startled—but pleased. Yet they were aware that despite the price rises they

European companies made an attempt to maintain pricing discipline, but it was a brief and unsuccessful one. Prices began to tumble as producers vainly chased non-existent volume sales. Right now, prices are still deteriorating.

The customer industries, such as motor manufacturers and building companies which stocked up last year to avoid rising plastics prices, started to de-stock. Their own businesses were hard hit by the growing recession that affected first the U.S. and then Europe. De-stocking and the accompanying fall in demand and prices, is not expected to come to an end until well into the final quarter

of this year. Meanwhile, the plastics industry is in disarray. Experts estimate that polymer prices need to rise by between 20-40 per cent on their August levels before producers can obtain adequate profit margins on their operations. It is a tall order for anyone, but particularly for an industry that has been battered and bruised almost continuously over the past few years.

Price level

Yet the first signs of an up-surge can already be detected on the horizon. For one thing, naphtha prices have been falling slowly but steadily. Rotterdam spot prices had dropped to around \$260 a tonne by the beginning of September and, although the contract price had held up to an average of about \$330 a tonne at the end of June, it is expected to fall back sharply at the start of the fourth quarter. This should ease some of the pressure on plastic producers.

By the beginning of September this year, the first tentative efforts to start increasing prices again had been made—strangely enough in polystyrene, the polymer that is predicted to grow least over the coming decade.

The major plastics manufacturers also add firmly that de-stocking cannot last much longer. They expect that, despite the general economic downturn, their customers will start restocking soon—although how quickly and to what extent nobody is prepared to guess.

Industry experts say that demand in 1980 will probably be about 5 per cent lower, over

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all, than in 1979. They reckon that in two years' time, plastics deliveries will have regained the ground lost this year—and from then on they will be looking for a steady if modest growth in the plastics market of around 3 to 4 per cent. Polystyrene is forecast to grow at only around 2 per cent a year during the 1980s, while polypropylene, the "youngest" of the bulk polymers, is expected to expand its market at between 12 and 14 per cent. The other three are thought likely to have a growth rate in the 3 per cent to 4 per cent a year range with HDPE perhaps touching 5 per cent in a good year.

Many other industries not only survive but are highly profitable, operating on far smaller growth rates than these. In the longer term, therefore, many leading plastics producers

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Winders	Idler roll width up to 3150mm	Single & dual turret - shaftless, alternatively with core-shafts
Tower & Machine mounted assemblies & mechanisms	To suit individual systems	Slitters, folders, guides, rack & pinion traverse mechanisms, nip rolls, post gusseting, treater & idler rolls, bubble container racks
Blown Film		
Extruders	60mm-200mm appropriate to sheet width	Extrusion tandem, totally integrated, precisely controlled system with direct gas injection
Dies		
Pull Roll Units		
Winders		
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EUROPEAN PLASTICS II

UK production chain forged from strong and weak links

THE CHAIN of the British plastics industry, which runs all the way from the North Sea oil-fields to some 4,000 scattered process plants, is a curious amalgam of strong and weak links.

Nothing should give it a stronger base than the North Sea hydrocarbons industry, allowing the sector to reap high rewards in domestic added value.

Yet just when Britain is starting to get the full benefits of North Sea oil and gas, the next link in the chain is looking distinctly weak: the plastics materials industry is facing strong competition from abroad and imports to the UK are at a disturbingly high level.

Nor is the machinery sector looking particularly healthy. Even Mr. John Parsons, the new President of the British Plastics Federation, has acknowledged that "the UK plastics machinery industry is small and fragmented and not making sufficient profits to fund new developments."

The final link in the chain, the process sector making plastic goods, has been hard hit by the recession, which has taken a particularly heavy toll of small, inefficient plants. But it still retains an underlying robustness. Imports, though increasing, have a limited market penetration, while productivity has shown some sharp improvements.

Tough competition from Europe leaves no grounds for complacency, however, particularly in the middle of a recession. The relative weakness of the materials sector could pose problems for the processors.

Petrochemicals

As the Plastic Processing Sector Working Party of the National Economic Development Council points out in its latest report: "A strong, vigorous and competitive UK petrochemicals sector is of prime importance to the performance of the plastics processing industry."

Import penetration in plastics materials has been recently increasing steadily at a rate of 2 to 3 per cent a year. Imports now account for 40 per cent of the UK market. It is largely a question of UK manufacturers losing out to Euro-

pean competitors, though the advent of cheap American imports is currently complicating the picture further.

What has gone wrong? Price is a reason often quoted by UK processors for a switch to a foreign supplier, but that only seems to be part of the answer. Other important factors are said to be a greater willingness of overseas suppliers to involve themselves in end-product development and more

to be over-ambitious, but they remain a useful goal.

In the field of exports Britain's share of world trade (albeit slowly increasing) is still only half that of France or Italy and only a quarter of that of West Germany. Moreover, it is far more concentrated than its rivals in Third World markets performing less well in the tough European theatre.

On the import side, a study earlier this year by the EPI

machinery manufacturers, the development of short-sighted difficulties (union demarcation, permitting) and greater employee education.

One of the more contentious areas of debate within the industry is on how to raise Britain's use of plastics, for this involves the sector's image of itself and delicate questions of design, investment and research and development. Plastics use per head in Britain is about half that of West Germany and significantly below that of other West European countries.

More traditional members of the industry argue that plastics in Britain simply have a bad image, conjuring up ideas of cheapness and shoddiness. As an example, they point to the fact that Britain is only now catching on to the PVC window-frame, way behind Europe.

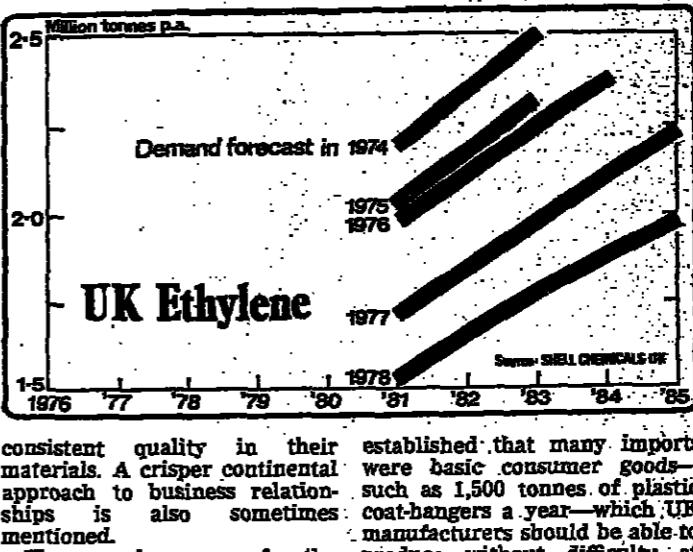
Others argue equally vehemently that there is no real evidence to show greater customer resistance in the UK, that the lower per capita sales are a product of Britain's relative poverty, that the industry is too defensive, and that there are very sound reasons why PVC window-frames have not caught on here before now.

Nevertheless, there does seem to be some truth in the argument that Britain is not paying as much attention to its Continental rivals as to the development of new products and fresh designs.

Certainly, the leaders of the industry are anxious to ram home the message that good design is vital if British companies are not merely to keep their share of the present market but to expand the frontiers of plastic as a substitute for traditional materials.

One example of this is the BPI's annual Horner awards for the design of plastics products with proven commercial application. Another pointer is the fact that the BPI, together with the sector working party, will be mounting a design exhibition for the first time at the engineering design show in November.

Martin Dickson



Severe decline

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

consistent quality in their materials. A crisper continental approach to business relationships is also sometimes mentioned.

The weaknesses of the materials sector—dominated by a handful of large chemicals companies—are sometimes believed to be mirrored in the processing sector, which is divided into some 4,000 plants (only 2,000 of them with plastics as their main product) of widely varying size, 85 per cent of them employing not more than 150 people.

But figures suggest that the picture is exaggerated. Imports have only penetrated 10 per cent of the market, a figure that has remained fairly constant since the early 1970s.

Nevertheless, there remains substantial room for improvement and the sector working party has set the industry four goals for the early 1980s: to double exports, halve imports in selected areas, raise value-added per employee by 30 per cent, and increase plastics usage in the UK to EEC levels. The targets are now acknowledged

established that many imports were basic consumer goods such as 1,500 tonnes of plastic coat-hangers a year while UK manufacturers should be able to produce without difficulty at competitive prices.

Moreover, many of these articles come from Western countries. The familiar argument that imports have made such headway on the home market because they are from countries of low cost labour is shown to be a false one in this instance," the Federation observed.

As regards productivity, the industry has recorded some substantial improvements in recent years, with efficiency rising from a base of 100 in 1975 to 130.2 by mid-1979. Admittedly, 1978 was a year of substantial capacity under-utilisation, but the trend still seems encouraging.

At the same time, there is wide agreement that much greater productivity gains are still possible. A study by the sector working party last year called for greater production planning, close attention to

many sectors of their markets. The general economic recession has taken its inevitable toll of plastics fabricators—particularly in the UK. British plastics processors have tended to be more fragmented than their Continental counterparts. Many of them have been too small to remain economically viable in depressed marketing conditions—particularly where they have failed to recognise the need for efficient, modern production methods and for good design.

There are other signs of hope on the horizon. The days when new ways of substituting plastics for traditional materials, such as metal, wood and glass were being discovered almost daily, are gone for good—except, possibly, in the case of polypropylene. But the industry is still spending money on research and development. More economic production processes are being worked out even today and more specialised materials, exactly suited for particular applications are also being developed.

When the current recession first began in the West, there were fears that producers of traditional materials might seize their chance to oust plastics from their new pre-eminent position in many applications. But these appear to have proved groundless.

Plastics prices may have risen and shoppers may have found that the big stores and the small retailers are more miserly with their plastics packaging than they once were.

But world crude price rises have led to increased costs for makers of paper and wood as much as for plastics manufacturers. The latter seem to have retained their strong position in

terms whose capital equipment consists of one or two extrusion machines—can hope to obtain a larger share of European market growth as a result of North Sea oil. The Government has given the go-ahead for the building of a new North Sea gas gathering system—one which will provide sufficient ethane gas to provide feedstock for at least one new ethylene plant and perhaps, ultimately, two.

Competition to build an ethylene plant based on North Sea gas feed stocks or to use the ethane from the new pipeline as raw material in an existing plant is fierce. Among those that have thrown their hats into the ring are Shell Chemical UK, Esso Chemicals, Imperial Chemical Industries, the U.S.-based Dow, BP Chemicals, the U.S.-based Occidental group and one or two rather more obscure contenders.

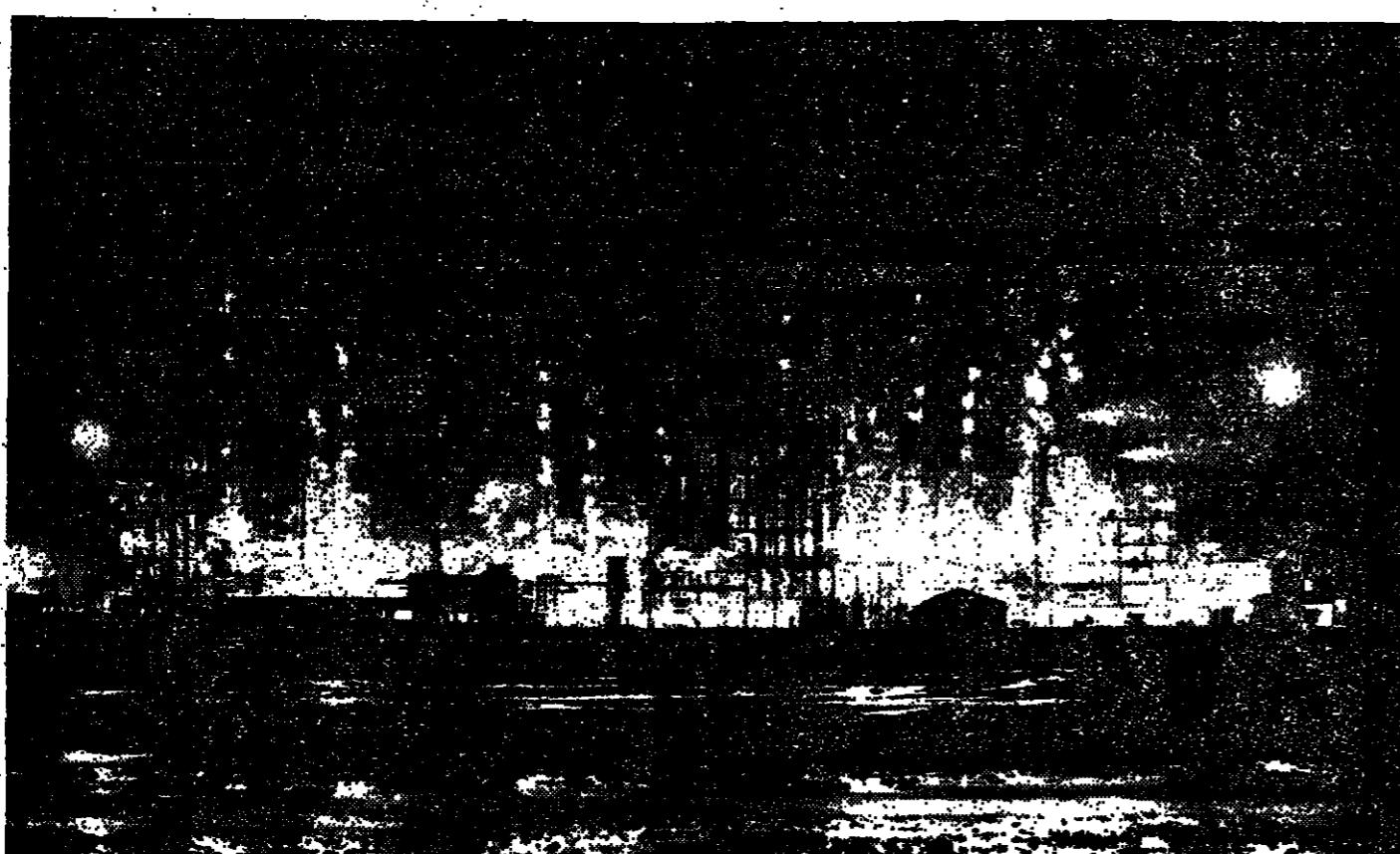
Ethylene, the so-called building block of the chemical industry that is used in making most of the major plastics materials, can be produced far more cheaply from ethane than from naphtha.

Whoever finally takes the lion's share of the new gas pipeline's ethane and other natural gas liquids, will have a considerable competitive advantage over its rivals in the plastics field.

In the longer term, the outlook for the European plastics industry, in general, and for British companies in particular, is far from bleak.



EUROPEAN PLASTICS III



Night view of BP Chemicals' factory at Baglan Bay, near Swansea. The complex is one of Europe's largest manufacturing plants for plastics and specialises in making raw materials for PVC products.

Plastic beads for a warm evening in a cold winter

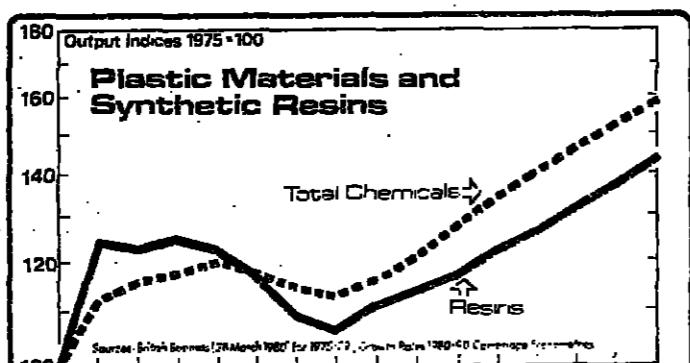
HOUSEHOLDERS preparing for a cosy evening at home on a cold winter's night could soon be able to press a lever that will inject thousands of tiny insulating beads between the skins of their double-glazed windows.

The aim of the beads, which are made of expandable polystyrene and can be blown back into cavity walls in the morning, is to retain warmth in a room and cut heating bills. The idea, which is already being tried in the U.S., is but one example of the developments that are taking place in the production and application of plastics materials.

The use of plastic beads to insulate windows may have a kind of novel charm but of far greater significance for the plastic industry is the work that has been done on linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE). This new type of plastic material is something of a hybrid and appears to offer the advantages of both high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and those of ordinary low-density polyethylene (LDPE).

Low pressure

HDPE has qualities of strength and thinness which ordinary LDPE lacks. But it is far more expensive to produce because it has to be made under great pressure, whereas ordinary LDPE manufacture requires comparatively low pressures. LLDPE, on the other hand, can be made with a cheap, low-pressure process but still has the strength and thinness of high-density material. Both the capital costs and the day-to-



day production costs of an LLDPE plant are substantially lower than for an HDPE unit. Some senior chemical company executives say the new material could eventually take over some 10 to 15 per cent of the present plastic bag market, and they believe it will hit even harder at the paper sack business.

Another plastic material whose prospects are looking up is polybutylene, which has been called the "sleeping beauty of the industry." It is not a new material as such—in fact it has been around for years. Up to now there have been difficulties in obtaining the butylene raw material from which it is made, but now it is thought that butylene may become more readily available and therefore cheaper.

Butylene can apparently be produced comparatively easily as a fairly pure by-product of another chemical used for anti-knock in petrol. Groups like Shell therefore believe that polybutylene could make a comeback and the company is thinking of developing the plastic as a specialty polymer.

Shell believes the plastics industry "needs some profitable specialities, not just more, huge commodity polymer plants." Polybutylene has some notable properties that could make it particularly useful as a material for making such things as industrial pipes.

It does not crack under stress, it retains its strength at high temperatures better than other materials, it is very resistant to abrasion and it does not suffer from what is known in the industry as "long creep." Long creep is akin to stretchability—an ordinary plastic that is tightened up will slowly loosen over a long period, for example. But a polybutylene nut should maintain its grip.

"Sandwiches"

In a rather different area, the plastics industry has started looking again at "sandwiches"—layers of material bonded together rather like laminates. Plastic and glass "sandwiches" are now being used to make such things as the drums in washing machines, for example. Their advantage over steel—the traditional material—is that they are lighter and can therefore give energy savings.

The possibility of making car bodies from two thin metal skins filled with plastic is currently being looked at too. This would make cars lighter—so saving on petrol—but at the same time the panels would be comparatively scratch-resistant in a way that plain plastic panels cannot be.

The difficulty here is that automotive manufacturers do not want to have to introduce expensive new equipment into their factories before they can take advantage of the new idea. The sandwich-style panels must be capable of being painted in the same way that metal car bodies are painted now, for example.

The appearance of a large customer can inevitably have a tremendous impact on a new material or its use for a new application. Perhaps the most startling example is the case of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles. PET is again an old product, but one

that has only recently been developed for use in the production of bottles.

Plastic bottles have been available for some time, usually made from polyvinyl chloride—PVC. But their drawback was that they could not be used to contain fizzy drinks. Either the gas escaped or, worse, the bottle exploded. The big advantage of making bottles from PET was that they could stand the pressures of carbonated liquids.

Because of this quality they were used as containers for coke. And such is the popularity of coke, that within about three months of their introduction PET bottles had virtually taken over the carbonated liquids bottle market.

As it happened, PET had originally been developed for use in textiles. The drop in fibres prices coincided with the use of PET for making bottles and, as a result, PET became cheaper and far more competitive with glass, the traditional material from which bottles are made.

The growth of PVC and PET in the bottles sector was held up—briefly—by the fact that plastic bottles were not returnable. But now these materials can be recycled and in countries such as France, where more plastic bottles are used than in the UK, bottle-banks have been set up.

Recycling

The industry admits that more work needs to be done on recycling. It says there is room for greater efficiency—not least in the collection of the used plastic bottles. It also says that recycled PVC, for example, has a more limited range of uses than newly-made material. It can be used to make plastic fence posts, rubbish bags or shoe soles. But once it has been recycled, PVC is not suitable for food packaging because it is not clean enough.

Polyurethane is another plastic material that is being studied to see if new uses can be found for it. One possibility being considered is the production of moulded polyurethane tyres. The difficulty is that such tyres do not have sufficient grip. But the material could be used initially to make tractor tyres while research is carried out to see if it might be adapted and improved for use in car and truck tyres.

The present tyre industry is both dirty and highly labour intensive. If moulded plastic tyres prove to be technically feasible then the industry could become more automated and cut its costs.

On the production side of the plastics industry itself, a good deal of research is being done into catalysts. At present many catalysts do not have a particularly high rate of activity and, as a result, part of the catalyst is left in the finished product. Companies then have to spend considerable sums on catalyst removal so that their finished plastic materials are pure. Catalyst that is not absorbed during the production process also has to be thrown away—which is a waste.

What technical experts are now working on is high activity catalysts which will have little or no waste and which will only appear in minute quantities in the finished product—amounts so small that they can safely be left there.

It might be argued that the plastics industry has developed few really new products or processes in recent years. But this is to ignore the fact that the plastics sector is a mature one. The big, obvious discoveries have been made and research work today will inevitably be less dramatic.

Yet improvements in production methods and new applications for old materials are slowly and steadily being made and they can still have considerable impact on a company's sales and profits.

Sue Cameron

'Alkathene' low density polyethylene

'Corvic', 'Welvic' PVC

'Diakon' acrylic polymer

'Evatane' EVA copolymers

'Fluon' PTFE

'Maranyl' nylon

'Melinex' polyester film

'Perspex' acrylic sheet

'Propafilm' oriented polypropylene film

'Propathene' polypropylene

'Viclan' PVdC

'Victrex' polyethersulphone

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EUROPEAN PLASTICS IV

Fears over cheap U.S. polymer products

THE TROUBLES of the European plastics industry during much this year have been exacerbated by the growing threat from cheap U.S. polymer exports to Europe.

Estimates of the percentage increases in cheap U.S. plastics exports to Europe in 1980 make frightening reading. If growth rates for the first six months of this year hold good for the second half of 1980—and there is no reason to think they will not—then, by December, European imports of low density polyethylene (LDPE) will have risen by no less than 259 per cent.

The projected figures for the other four bulk plastics materials are almost as grim. American exports to Europe of high density polyethylene (HDPE) are expected to increase by 36 per cent during 1980; those of polypropylene by 153 per cent; polyvinyl chloride (PVC) by 175 per cent; and polystyrene by 56 per cent.

Yet, the volume increases—huge though they are—do not tell the whole story. The actual tonnages of plastics coming across the Atlantic are still comparatively small—as American producers are quick to point out. In the first half of this year, only some 58,000 tonnes of LDPE came to Western Europe from the U.S., 26,000 tonnes of HDPE, 23,000 tonnes of polypropylene, 20,000 tonnes of PVC and 4,200 tonnes of polystyrene.

U.S. exports to Europe of PVC and polystyrene account for only about 1 per cent of the European market, despite the big rises in volume sales. The figure for HDPE, LDPE and polypropylene is slightly higher—between 3 per cent and 3.5 per cent. But the U.S. share of the European market would still seem to be too small for UK and Continental producers to worry about.

But European companies are deeply concerned about imports from the U.S. They admit that the tonnages coming into their market are tiny, but they insist that it is the price which is important—not the amounts. They stress that U.S. producers have an "unfair" cost advantage over European manufacturers because the American Government is holding down oil and gas prices to below world levels. As a result, U.S. exports are coming into Europe at remarkably low prices.

Dramatic slump

By the spring of this year, the European plastics industry was facing a dramatic slump in demand and, although a few producers tried to maintain pricing discipline, plastics prices quickly started to fall as companies tried to maintain their volume sales. The appearance of cut price imports from America, it is claimed, did much to encourage this disastrous trend.

American plastics manufacturers have a number of advantages over their European counterparts—not all of them unfair ones. They make the greater part of their petrochemicals and their plastics not from the oil-based naphtha as the Europeans do but from the gas ethane. Ethane is a more economic raw material for making plastics and petrochemicals than naphtha—even if gas and naphtha feedstock costs are exactly the same.

The U.S. producers also have an extremely large, homogenous domestic market. This, too, helps them to be more efficient than many European companies. But European manufacturers estimate that around 33 per cent of the U.S. producers' plastics cost advantage is the direct result of artificially low gas raw material prices.



THERE are five major plastics materials: polystyrene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), plus high and low density polyethylene—HDPE and LDPE. Some have been harder hit than others by the present dramatic downturn in the market, partly because their end uses vary.

Estimates based on current plastics pricing and demand levels suggest that the European bulk polymer industry as a whole stands to lose at least £200m this year—and possibly twice that sum. Prices in August were around 15 per cent to 20 per cent lower than at the end of last year and in some cases they have fallen by nearer 30 per cent in the past nine

months. The downturn in the plastics market is starting to show itself in reduced profits. BASF, one of the three major German-based chemical groups, reported an appreciable 5.5 per cent decline in its pre-tax profits for the second quarter of 1980. BASF reported that stiff international competition was holding product prices down particularly in such areas as basic petrochemicals and plastics.

The industry in Europe feels that today's plastics prices need to be increased by between 20 per cent and 40 per cent to give producers reasonable profit margins.

The Europeans believe that the fair advantage enjoyed by the domestic U.S. market starts to pick up again. American manufacturers will cut down on their exports.

But such hopes provide only cold comfort for the European plastics industry today. American polymer is still coming into their market at prices they cannot hope to match without losing money. What is worse, the chances of action by the European Economic Community appear to be slim.

The chemical industry in Europe has repeatedly appealed to the European Commission to press its case against the "un-

American petrochemical producers, as a result of Government-controlled oil and gas prices. So far, the Commission has been persuaded to launch anti-dumping investigations against the U.S. over styrene and vinyl acetate—which is used to make polystyrene and PVC.

But it has turned a seemingly deaf ear to pleas from the European Council of Chemical Manufacturers' Federations that the U.S. should be asked to introduce some kind of neutralising levy to cancel out oil and gas feedstock advantage

"the rape element," as the industry calls it.

The Commission appears to regard the chemical industry's plight as little more than a bargaining counter to be used in trade negotiations over European exports of steel.

The Association of Plastic Manufacturers in Europe (APME) is preparing to table the Commission on the question of cheap U.S. plastics exports to Europe were beginning to emerge. "The concern is that the day when demand and production capacity in Europe are in better balance will be delayed still further if the volume of imports of chemicals and plastic from the Commission countries or the U.S. were to increase substantially in the 1980s—perhaps to the point at which Europe becomes a net importer of chemicals instead of a massive net exporter."

Serious threat

In the long term, I suggest that the more serious threat is that of an increase in imports into Europe—and into Europe's traditional export markets—of manufactured goods like cars and shoes and hi-fi equipment rather than the import of chemicals as such into Europe. The chemical content of manufactured goods of this sort is very high.

The danger of further price cuts being forced on the European plastics industry as a result of cheap imports from the U.S. is a serious one. But even the pessimists believe it is likely to be short-lived.

Imports of manufactured goods containing non-European made polymer, on the other hand, may ultimately present a far greater problem to European plastics materials producers and to their plastics processing customers.

Sue Cameron

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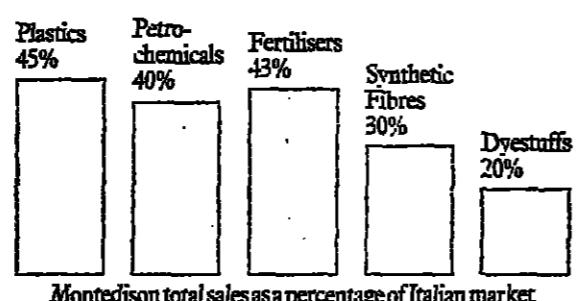
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We're Italy's biggest chemical company making us the 8th largest in the world.

Two of our biggest breakthroughs were the development of the vital antibiotic Adriamycin, now used widely in the USA and elsewhere, and the Nobel prize winning invention and development of the plastics material Polypropylene.

1,000 PLANTS WORLD-WIDE

We operate in a large number of other countries both on our own and



producing everything from town gas for Milan to cardiovascular and anti-cancer drugs.

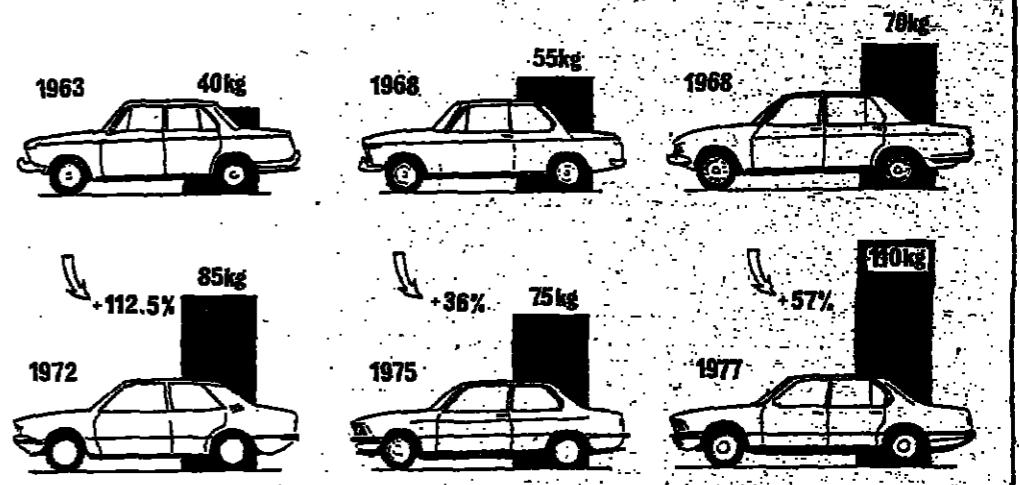
From plastics materials and engineering to fertilizers and pesticides.

From industrial chemicals and textile lubricants to elastomers and dyestuffs.

THE QUIET GIANT

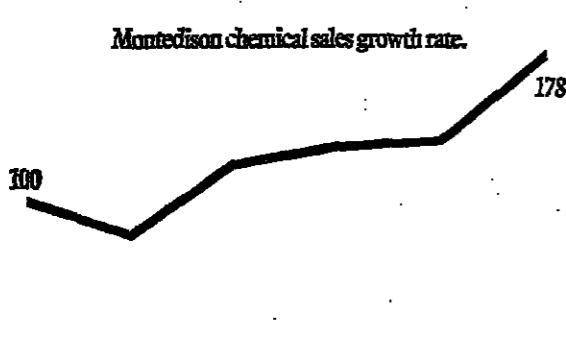
Montedison are a force to be reckoned with and, in several areas such as plastics, are recognised world leaders.

CONSUMPTION OF PLASTICS IN CARS



Benefits of wider use of plastics in cars

"Come in N°5"



in co-operation with other major manufacturers such as Petrofina and Hercules.

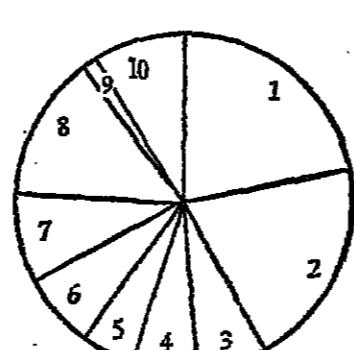
And our Tecnimont Engineering Division has designed and built over 1,000 plants throughout the world, including the USA, USSR and Third World.

NOT JUST CHEMICALS

Although some 82% of our turnover is in chemicals, fibres, pharmaceuticals, paints and related products, we are also involved in a large number of non-chemical operations.

Glass, glass fibres, animal health and veterinary products, and even departmental store retailing.

We have a total of 104 manufacturing plants world-wide employing 115,000 people,



The main fields in which the Montedison group operates

1. Petrochemicals 21.6%
2. Plastics 20%
3. Agrochemicals 6%
4. Industrial Chemicals 6%
5. Dyestuffs 5%
6. Pharmaceuticals 7%
7. Fibres 9%
8. Retailing 15%
9. Engineering 2%
10. Others 2%

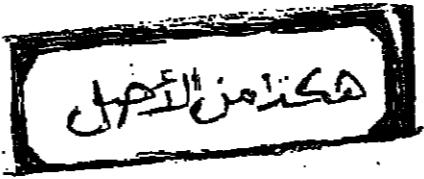
Our diversity and wide infrastructural base gives us excellent scope for cross-fertilisation of ideas in related fields, and the ability to support our extensive and valuable research programme both now and in the very busy future.

Montedison may be a quiet giant, but we're far from silent.

*Fortune August 11th 1980.



MONTEDISON



THE WORLD oil crisis of 1973 has done much to boost the use of plastic materials in that symbol of 20th-century prosperity—the motor car.

The use of plastics instead of aluminium, steel or glass in car manufacture has been growing slowly but steadily during the past ten years. But the Iranian revolution and the recognition of the need for greater energy-saving that followed it have led to an ever-larger use of plastics in cars.

The big advantages of plastic materials is that they can provide improved performance through, for example, reduced air resistance. They also lead to a saving on petrol consumption because they are lighter.

Plastics now account for up to 7 per cent of the weight of a typical European car and a number of companies have plans to increase this proportion to 10 per cent. The average actual weight of plastic in a modern car is probably around 70 kilograms.

With European car-production running at some 12m units a year, the automotive industry uses about 0.34m tonnes of plastics a year. Plastics industry experts and car-producers believe this figure will double over the next 10 years.

Polyurethane

Plastics today are used in nearly all sections of a car and the average vehicle has between 800 and 1,000 separate plastics components, ranging from tiny instrument bearings to bumpers.

But the area where plastic materials are most used is in the car's interior. All the main plastic materials are used in car production. The leading materials are polyurethane, which normally accounts for around 30 per cent of the total plastic used in a vehicle, and polyvinyl chloride—PVC—which accounts for about 28 per cent.

Increasing interest is being shown today in the use of high density polyethylene—HDPE—for making fuel tanks, which have traditionally been made of steel. Plastic fuel tanks not only save weight—and therefore petrol consumption—but they can also make the best use of the available space. This is becoming ever more important as cars are designed in a more compact way.

Plastic fuel tanks have been fitted in European cars since the start of the 1970s but there is still some development work to be done on them before they come into general use. One problem is that safety tests for fuel tanks have often been designed for steel. Plastic tanks may not necessarily be less safe—but sometimes they cannot, by virtue of their different qualities, meet steel tank tests.

The growing use of electronics in cars is expected to create more applications for plastics in the form of housings, circuit boards and insulation materials. The need for more energy efficient cars—and more energy efficient production processes—is opening up considerable opportunities for European plastics producers.

But there are some drawbacks to the use of polymers. One is the problem of recycling plastics. At present about 70 per cent of a car can be recycled but the possibility of recycling plastic parts is still extremely limited and sometimes it cannot be done at all.

Some of the other difficulties associated with the use of plastics in cars were outlined earlier this summer in a paper given to the Association of Plastics Manufacturers in Europe by Dr. Karlheinz Radermacher, director of BMW. Dr. Radermacher said one problem was the fluctuating cost of plastic materials, which were ultimately dependent on oil and gas prices.

Despite some problems which have still to be overcome, the use of polypropylene for making bumpers, dashboards and door panels, of polyurethane for making seat cushions, steering wheel pads, head rests and ceiling padding, and of PVC for making upholstery, exterior vinyl coating and for electrical insulation are, among many other uses, clearly set to increase.

Polypropylene

Industry experts estimate that every kilogram of plastic which replaces traditional materials in car manufacture leads to a net direct saving of at least one kilogram of car weight. By the same token, if the fuel consumption of the average car were reduced by just 1 per cent, whatever means, the weight is an obvious way—the European Economic Community could save over 0.5m tonnes of oil a year.

Given the increases in petrol prices and the EU's announced decision to cut import prices by a few pence this summer, it is likely to make much difference to the general upward trend in the use of plastics in cars.

This is especially the case for the external body panels, for which the quantity of plastic required is increasing rapidly. The EU's decision to cut import prices by a few pence this summer is likely to make much difference to the general upward trend in the use of plastics in cars.

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Sue Cameron

EUROPEAN PLASTICS V

Falling demand and higher costs hit packaging industry

THE EUROPEAN packaging film and plastic bag industry is in the midst of a period of rationalisation. During the past 12 months manufacturers have come under pressure first from rising costs and now from a slump in demand for its product caused by the deepening recession.

Nevertheless, the industry is still expected to make further inroads into those areas of packaging held by producers of the more traditional materials such as paper and board.

The fall in demand, blamed by the plastic packaging manufacturers mainly on wholesale and retail de-stocking, has already resulted in reduction in the prices for a number of polyethylene film products. In turn, this has created a further squeeze on profit margins throughout the industry.

Polyethylene film makers normally expect turnover to build up steadily from the end of the summer as retailers prepare for Christmas. Last year the upturn in orders failed to materialise and so far this year there has been no compensating rise in sales.

The industry's problems have

been compounded because the fall in consumer demand coincided, earlier this year, with dramatic increases in raw material costs.

Plastic bags, carrier bags, plastic sacks and shrink-wrap are made either from low-density polyethylene (LDPE) or high-density polyethylene (HDPE). Both materials are produced by major chemical companies from naphtha—an oil-based feed stock. The chemicals companies in turn buy their naphtha supplies directly from the oil companies, or on the spot market.

Spot market

At the beginning of the year the price of naphtha—riding on the back of oil prices—soared to an unprecedented \$400 a tonne on the Rotterdam spot-market. The spot-market price had effectively doubled since January 1978 and the contract price had tagged along only a short way behind.

The major European chemical companies such as Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) and Shell Chemicals UK, having suffered from over capacity and weak prices for years in their

plastic materials divisions, seized upon the opportunity to push up product prices and thereby improve profit margins.

The manufacturers of plastic bags, carrier bags, plastic sacks and shrink-wrap account for about 60 per cent of the general surplus of oil products, including naphtha. The average contract price for naphtha has now fallen to under \$330 a tonne, and spot market prices to around \$260 or \$270 a tonne earlier this year.

The combination of higher raw material prices and weak demand, together with other factors, has already led to some reorganisation, short-time working and job-losses, particularly in the UK where the industry is fragmented.

Aside from closures among some of the small companies which characterise the industry, there are signs that some of the major British plastic packaging groups have also had to cut back on production and manning levels. For example, in November, ICI announced a two-year reorganisation of its polyethylene film business involving the closure of its plant at Stevenage in Hertfordshire. No enforced redundancies are planned.

Under a phased closure all film manufacturing is to be transferred to ICI's other production site at Stockton-on-Tees in Durham. ICI said the closure of the Stevenage plant was necessary to reduce operating costs. The group's polyethylene film division, which accounts for about 7 per cent of ICI's UK plastics business, makes shrink-wrapping film, pallet-wrapping film and items such as heavy duty plastic sacks.

Weak prices

In February HJB Plastics, part of the Courtaulds group, announced plans to cut production and halve the workforce, axing 128 jobs at its Leicestershire plant. The factory makes printed and unprinted plastic bags and packaging film. The company blamed its decision on rising costs, weak prices, strong competition from cheap imports and a fall in demand.

Since then, the fall in demand for polyethylene film products and plastic bags has continued. Some chemical companies are now suggesting that demand for LDPE in Europe has fallen by as much as 30 per cent since the

beginning of the year. As a result, product prices have also begun to fall. The recession and the fall in the demand for petrochemicals throughout Europe are partly responsible for the general surplus of oil products, including naphtha. The average contract price for naphtha has now fallen to under \$330 a tonne, and spot market prices to around \$260 or \$270 a tonne earlier this year.

Within the European industry, UK producers face particular problems which have been worsened by the strength of sterling. UK producers have also tended to manufacture a wide range of goods, while on the Continent, many plastics packaging companies have specialised to far greater degree.

This has sometimes enabled them to invest in more modern technology than their UK counterparts. Streamlining of their operations to make them more efficient has also helped them keep prices down.

Competition for LDPE film has also come from traditional materials such as paper and from other plastic materials, particularly high-density polyethylene film. HDPE costs more per tonne than LDPE and its use in packaging is limited because it is not transparent. But it is the stronger material.

Rubbish sacks

This means that far more plastic bags can be made from a tonne of HDPE than from a tonne of LDPE. Although the industry has always relied upon LDPE as a raw material, because of its comparative cheapness and transparency, HDPE has become more attractive for goods such as carrier bags or rubbish sacks where transparency is not necessary. In addition, technological advances are making HDPE more attractive.

BXL, bought by BP Chemicals in 1978 from the U.S.-based Union Carbide, announced plans for a new £11m LDPE film plant at Bromborough in the Wirral earlier this year. The new plant, which is expected to be completed next year, will employ 150 people and have a capacity of 20,000 tonnes. It will replace the company's 15,000 tonne capacity plant at Liverpool which has proved unsuitable for expansion.

The company, in pressing ahead with its expansion plans, is clearly confident of the longer-term future for polyethylene film products. In the short term, however, the downturn in demand in the highly competitive film market has forced substantial reductions in the price of a number of film products and a fall in demand.

Competition within the LDPE film market has always been keen and has intensified as demand has fallen away. This is in part because many com-

panies in the fragmented industry have chosen to respond to the fall in demand by keeping their own prices down to maintain sales volume.

However, companies using LDPE cannot simply switch to HDPE because it requires a completely different technology.

Another danger in this area for the UK plastics packaging industry is that at present, UK

producers of HDPE cannot meet the domestic demand.

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The company claims, through its flexible packaging division, to be one of the largest UK manufacturers of polyethylene film and the market leader for polyethylene shrink film. It manufactures its own LDPE at Grangemouth in Scotland. The Grangemouth plant now has a capacity of 100,000 tonnes a year.

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The company sees the material, in a perforated form, as suitable for certain boil-in-the-bag applications. In aerated form it could be useful for packing products such as fresh vegetables which need to "breathe." When unperforated, it could serve as an alternative to expensive glassine, tissue-paper and vegetable parchment

per cent of the plastic carrier-bag market in food retailing—and a higher proportion elsewhere.

At a time of squeezed margins, packaging costs come under particular scrutiny. But figures suggest that although the annual rate of inflation in plastics packaging has been high, perhaps reaching 22 per cent in 1979, the rate of increase for paper bags was even higher.

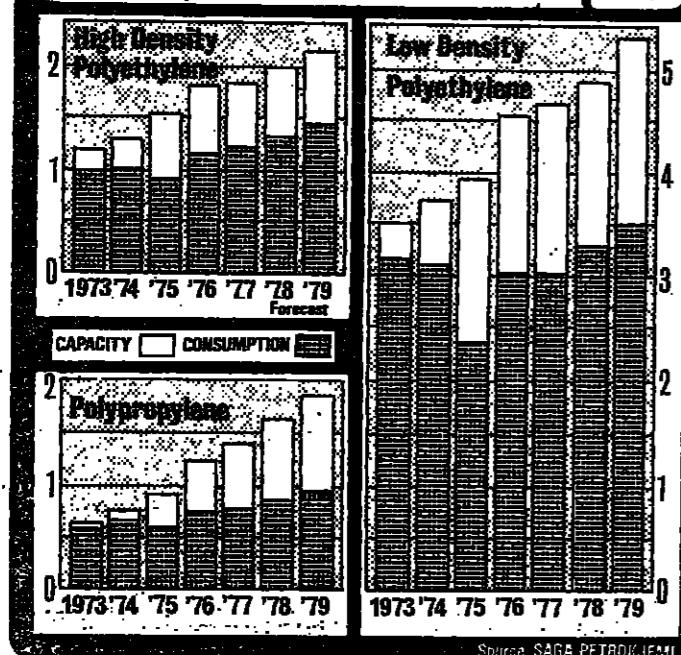
Aside from the cost factor, the other potential threat to the plastics packaging industry is posed by the environmental lobby should it succeed in its

campaign for less packaging and more recycling of waste. But packaging surveys, such as the latest from Shell International Chemicals published earlier this year, suggest that plastics packaging will continue to grow during the 1980s at the expense of other materials.

If prospects look gloomy for the polyethylene film manufacturers in the short term, those that emerge from the recession may well find themselves in a stronger market position facing a growing market.

Paul Taylor

POLYOLEFINS: Capacity and Consumption in Western Europe (million tonnes)



Producers scramble for gas feeds stocks

GREAT EMPHASIS has often been placed on the regional divisions between North and South—by DuPont in the nineteenth century and by the former German Chancellor Herr Brandt in the twentieth. Today it seems likely that Europe's plastics producers may split along similar lines.

This is one reason for the somewhat undignified scramble for ethane supplies which has been taking place in the UK over the past three or four months. Concerns such as Shell Chemicals UK, Esso Chemical, Imperial Chemical Industries, BP Chemicals, the U.S.-based Dow group and the U.S.-based Occidental company have all realised that by the end of the 1980s, modern plastics plants, based ultimately on supplies of natural gas liquids—NGLs—as raw materials could give their owners a dramatic lead in the market-place.

Some concerns are still stunned by the depth and suddenness of this slump, while others are taking an optimistic view, and counting on the underlying growth forecast for the major commodity polymers.

But in the longer term there is no reason to believe that the future will be brightest for those in the far North—Scandinavia, the Netherlands and the UK—and for those southern countries that are close to the oil-producing states of North Africa and the Middle East.

The reason is simply that the availability and cost of efficient feedstocks is likely to make an ever more important difference to the competitiveness of plastics manufacturers.

Naphtha shortage

Until now, the greater part of Western Europe's plastics materials—in terms of tonnage—has been made from the oil-based feedstock, naphtha. But the Iranian revolution of last year and the ensuing shortage—and fear of shortage—of crude and of naphtha has led to a fairly radical rethink about raw materials. The plastics industry recognised with a jolt that supplies and raw material prices were neither as secure nor as stable as it had thought.

Most of the major companies, many of them with chemicals and plastics subsidiaries, are losing their power over supplies of crude and naphtha on a worldwide basis.

What many of the major plastics producers in Europe are now trying to do is, a result is to obtain access to cheap and relatively secure supplies of feedstocks.

The plight of the European companies has perhaps been thrown into relief by the flow of cut-price U.S. plastics exports across the Atlantic. One reason why the American product is so cheap is that the U.S. Government is keeping oil and gas prices below world levels. But even the most militant of the European companies admits that this only accounts for some 15 per cent of the Americans' total cost advantage.

both the Dow project and the other companies' plans to go ahead simultaneously.

The "Gang of Four" put out a good deal of propaganda about North Sea oil and gas being used for the benefit of British companies; it is perhaps worth noting that Esso Chemical, a subsidiary of the U.S.-based Exxon group, did not take too prominent a part in the general arguments.

What the four had clearly realised was that Dow would have an unbeatable advantage over them if it were allowed to take a large tranche of the NGLs coming from the new North Sea pipeline.

Dow had realised—that it was an extremely exposed position. The company has always been known and cordially disliked within the chemical industry—for the way it has played the raw material market, buying cheap

naphtha on the Rotterdam spot market and making and selling plastics and other chemicals at highly competitive prices.

The dramatic rises that took place in the naphtha price last year, following the world oil crisis, caused Dow to decide that it had better obtain firm supplies of basic raw materials.

Raw materials

One noteworthy factor about the current jostling for position in the queue for North Sea NGLs is that Dow is probably prepared to pay a comparatively high price for its ethane, propane and butane. It can afford to do so, knowing that even if the North Sea NGL price is high, it will still be able to produce plastics and other chemicals far more cheaply and at a lower capital cost than its competitors using traditional raw materials.

An ethane-based ethylene plant is already going to be built at Mossmorran in Scotland by Shell and Esso jointly. The newly-built BP Chemicals/ICI ethylene plant at Wilton on Teesside is also capable of using up to 50 per cent NGL raw materials.

But the haggling over access to NGLs from the new North Sea gas gathering system is perhaps proof that one of the few ways in which companies in a mature industry can improve their competitive position is by using better, more efficient feedstocks. The pay-off comes in terms of capital costs, production costs, product prices and the ability to stay comparatively aloof from the adverse effects of overcapacity in European plastics production.

S.C.

The company sees the material, in a perforated form, as suitable for certain boil-in-the-bag applications. In aerated form it could be useful for packing products such as fresh vegetables which need to "breathe." When unperforated, it could serve as an alternative to expensive glassine, tissue-paper and vegetable parchment.

BIP Vinyls Limited

Aycliffe Industrial Estate,
Newton Aycliffe,
County Durham DL5 6EA.
Telephone: 0325 515122.
Telex: 56322.

Well known as a packaging material, it appears

on many shelves as bottles, sachets and cling wrap. It is also fabricated at Aycliffe into

"Extruder" pipe for carrying water and

draining roads.

"Beetle" PVC is vital to many products.

And it comes from BIP Vinyls—the new name with an established reputation.

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Even during your holidays you can ride the crests of the waves with BASF plastics. The ideal plastic for the production of weather-resistant windsurfing boards by any desired processing technique can be found in the extensive BASF range. **®Lupolen 4261 A** is an exceptionally tough HDPE which shrugs off the severest blows. It allows extremely long articles to be obtained by blow moulding techniques. **®Luran S776** SE is an ASA plastic with excellent colour retention, and it yields a first-class finish. It can be very readily thermo-formed. **®Palatal** grades (UP) with higher stiffness because of glass fibre reinforcement, excellent surface finish and easy low styrene-emission processing because of the use of light curing laminating resins. BASF information bulletins on plastics will put fresh wind in your sails.

The BASF range of plastics

Lupolen	PE	Lupolen	SAN	Ultramid	PA
*Lucobit	ECB	*Luran S	ASA	*Ultraform	POM
*Novolen	PP	*Terulon			

Companies and Markets

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

NEW YORK

Stock	Sept. 25	Sept. 22	Stock	Sept. 25	Sept. 22	Stock	Sept. 25	Sept. 22
Columbia Gas	361	357	Gt. Atl. Pac. Tea	64	62	Schiff Brew. J.	81	80
Columbia Pet.	559	559	Gt. Basin Pet.	571	571	Schlesinger...	1461	1450
Comd. Int'l.	194	194	Hillman	991	100	SGM	274	254
Com. & Ind.	164	167	Hilton Bradley	454	454	Sochi-Paper	192	192
ARA	244	244	Ind. & Fin. Co.	204	204	Scowides Dub V.	14	13
ASA	82	82	J. W. Fleming	154	154	Sou. Coopers	74	74
AT&T Corp.	291	314	Greyhound	274	274	South Africa	513	506
Abbotts Labo.	534	55	Grimmman	194	194	Sopram	68	69
Aerospace	33	35	Gulf & Western	404	404	Spaced Power	25	24
Adobe Oil & Gas	23	23	Gulf Oil	404	404	Searle (G.D.)	354	354
Aetna Life & Cas.	534	534	Halliburton	501	501	Searle Roseback	174	174
Air Prod. & Chem.	224	224	Hanover Corp.	514	514	Semco M/T.	304	304
Alcana	121	114	Hanover Corp.	514	514	Monsanto	513	524
Alberto-Culv.	144	144	Hannay Mining	314	314	MooreMcCart	404	404
Albertson's	344	344	Hanover Corp.	314	314	Morgan (GP)	444	444
American Standard	346	346	Hanover Corp.	454	454	Morgan Stanley	604	604
Aleghany Ludm.	571	577	Hanover Corp.	554	554	Moskow	604	604
Allied Chemical	531	544	Harcourt Brace	244	244	Murphy Oil	154	154
Allied Stores	23	23	Harschberger	244	244	Nabisco	454	454
Allis-Chalmers	177	177	Harris Corp.	454	454	Nalco Chem.	467	474
Alpha Portl.	17	17	Harris Corp.	454	454	Signode	474	474
Alcoa	743	753	Hawkins	504	504	Simplicity Pat.	55	50
Amal. Sugar	557	554	Hawkins	514	514	Singer	144	144
Amax	507	507	Hawthorne	254	254	Skyline	144	144
Amerada Hess.	554	554	Hawthorne	254	254	Smith Int'l.	53	53
Am. Brand	834	821	Hawthorne	254	254	Smith Kline	66	66
Am. Broadcast	55	534	Hawthorne	254	254	Sonesta Int'l.	314	314
Am. Can.	334	334	Hawthorne	254	254	Sony	144	154
Am. Cyanamid	264	264	Hawthorne	254	254	South African	224	224
Am. Elect. Equip.	556	556	Hawthorne	254	254	South African	224	224
Am. Gen. Insur.	371	384	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard	144	144
Am. Hoin & Dr.	22	23	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Home Prod.	347	347	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Int'l. & Fin.	546	546	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Motors	6	6	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Nat Reserves	624	624	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Petina	524	524	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Quaker Pet.	23	23	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Standard	72	72	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Stores	72	72	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Am. Tele. & Tel.	34	34	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
AMP	453	503	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Amplex	271	271	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Amstrand Inds.	456	456	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Anchor Rocke.	195	20	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Anheuser-Busch	304	304	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Arrow Daniels	324	324	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Armco	234	234	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Armstrong CK.	164	156	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Arnold	512	523	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Asland Oil	334	334	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Ass'd Goods	272	272	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Attala Corp.	503	499	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Auto-Delta Prog.	971	971	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Avco	524	524	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Avery Int'l.	231	231	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Avnet	381	393	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Avon Prod.	551	404	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Baker Int'l.	397	407	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Balt. Gas & El.	220	212	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bancor	27	27	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bank Pnta.	25	25	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bank America	351	354	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bankers Int'l. N.Y.	441	441	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bausch & Lomb	583	597	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bax Trax Lab.	543	541	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Beatrice Foods	214	214	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Becker Indus.	183	184	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bell & Howell	264	272	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bell Industries	151	151	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Beneficial	214	216	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Beth Stahl	254	254	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Big Three Inds.	63	63	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Black & Decker	441	441	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Block HR	354	354	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Blue Bell	31	31	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Boeing	401	418	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Borg Cucco.de	254	254	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Borden	254	254	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Borg-Warner	414	418	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brannif Int'l.	278	278	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Briggs Strattn.	278	278	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brown Myers	261	261	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
BP	261	261	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brockway Glass	171	173	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brown. B. Hill	33	33	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brown Grp.	337	338	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brown & Sharp	35	32	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brown-Ferris	256	262	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Brownhill	150	153	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Bryant	304	304	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Campbell Soup	304	313	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Campbell Tagg.	255	256	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Cana Randolph	197	194	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Carey Pacific	10	10	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Carter Corp.	61	61	Hawthorne	254	254	Standard Oil	284	284
Carnation	285	289	Hawthorne	254				

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

**Jute
cartel
urged**

JUTE PRODUCERS yesterday were urged by Bangladeshi's Agriculture Minister to unite and "be dictators rather than dictated to." Jute producing countries, faced with a slump in world demand, began discussions in Dacca of a proposal to form an international organisation to regulate the jute market along the lines of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Bangladesh's Agriculture Minister, Major-General Nurul Islam, told the opening session of the three-day conference that the jute market was depressed because industrialised countries dictated the price of raw materials.

The price of jute, which is used to make sacking, had been static for 10 years while other commodity prices had gone up considerably.

The conference, sponsored by the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), includes Bangladesh, Burma, India, Nepal, Brazil and Thailand. The only main producer not attending is China.

Bangladesh, which proposed the creation of an Organisation of Jute Exporting Countries, depends on the commodity for 70 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings.

Reuter

**Coffee prices fall as
agreement hopes fade**

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

LONDON COFFEE futures dropped to four-year lows yesterday as delegates to the International Coffee Organisation meeting continued their discussions with hope of agreement beginning to fade.

A whole crop of problems was holding up the ICO talks, among them the size of the quota and each exporting country's share of it, the price range on which quotas would be based, the starting date and difficulties of some governments in implementing the necessary customs procedures.

The producers have proposed a price range for operating export quotas of between 135c and 184c a pound, with a midpoint of 160c; they suggest that the starting date for controls should be October 1.

But in the discussions between the consumers, the U.S. has been talking of a figure of a dollar, though this is lower than other consumers would be prepared to accept. However, the

consumers have been waiting for the producing countries to come up with detailed proposals on quotas, including the agreed size of each producer's quota. One problem is that each producer has been trying to get as large a share as possible.

The U.S. is also insisting that if there is to be an agreement, then Pancafe must be liquidated, so that prices are not manipulated by the Latin American producers group.

The moves by Noranda and Electrolytic Zinc suggests that producers have now decided the market is strong enough to go for the higher price increase. But there are still considerable doubts whether European smelters, not connected with mines, will be prepared to follow the higher price rise.

Demand for zinc in Europe remains rather sluggish and the smelter might be put in a difficult position by having to pay a higher price for their concentrates which they are impossible to pass on to their customers.

Zinc values held steady on the London Metal Exchange yesterday moving in a narrow range. Italian zinc producer Pertusola warned yesterday it may be forced to suspend production at its 90,000 tonnes-a-year Calabria smelter.

Other base metals were also subdued in surprisingly quiet trading conditions after the excitement of the previous two days. Unimpressed by the Iran-Iraq conflict, copper cash wirebars fell by 29 to £897 a tonne and cash lead lost £15.5 to £267 a tonne.

Cash tin, however, rallied by £53 to £7,244 a tonne.

The bullion market spot quotation for silver was only 10.5p up at 978.6p a troy ounce. Values lost ground in later trading and the LME cash price closed at 944p a troy ounce.

EEC sugar exports down again

BY OUR COMMODITIES EDITOR

LOWER THAN expected EEC sugar export authorisations yesterday brought a brief surge in the world market. But after rising sharply prices settled back again on profit-taking selling and ended the day only marginally higher. March futures closed £2.675 up at £307.125 a tonne after reaching £402.50 at one stage.

Exports of white sugar authorised by the EEC Commission at its weekly selling tender dropped to only 16,500 tonnes against 31,500 tonnes a week ago. The minimum export levy was raised from 9.391 to 10.299 European Currency Units per 100 kilos and this is thought to have discouraged bids in view of the uncertain state of the market. The Commission also authorised the export of 40,000 tonnes of raw sugar with a levy of 13.012 units.

Herr Ertl was quoted as saying "we must solve our butter surplus problems through balanced policy of exports to non-EEC countries and price cuts benefiting our own people."

Herr Ertl noted that large quantities of EEC butter from stocks have been exported to countries outside the Community in recent months, but that only certain EEC states have taken steps to boost domestic butter sales.

Reuter

**Bonn seeks
cutprice EEC
butter sales**

BONN—West German agriculture minister Josef Ertl has proposed that sales to EEC consumers of cut-price butter from Community stocks should be renewed later this year.

He appealed in a letter to Fim Gundelach, EEC Agriculture Commissioner for such a proposal to be put before the EEC Ministerial Council urgently to produce a decision by November.

Herr Ertl was quoted as saying "we must solve our butter surplus problems through balanced policy of exports to non-EEC countries and price cuts benefiting our own people."

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Reuter

BRITISH COMMODITY MARKETS**BASE METALS**

before a late reaction to £223 on the Kerb.

COPPER—Lower on the London Metal Exchange. Forward metal opened at £2322 but came under persistent profit-taking and hedge selling which lowered the price to £1919 on 10pm. It then recovered to close the afternoon Kerb at £7,320.

ZINC—Slightly changed in quiet trading with forward metal moving in a 23 range prior to closing the late Kerb at £506.

ALUMINIUM—Barley changed in idle trading with forward metal finding some support from the Chinese. The main feature of the day's trading was the narrowing of the contango to £10.

LEAD—Fell away on renewed profit-taking and the weakness of copper. Forward metal opened at £251 but was quickly bought back, with three month dipping to £205 in the rings. During the afternoon fresh selling depressed the price to £281 before a minor rally to £284.5 on the late Kerb.

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SILVER

Silver was fixed 10.45p an ounce higher for spot delivery in the London bullion market. The price of 99.99% U.S. equivalents of the fixing levels were: spot \$23.54, up 28c; six-month \$23.27, up 26c; one-month \$24.88, up 64c; and 12-month \$26.613, up 63c. The metal opened at \$23.5770 and closed at \$23.5500 (£22.50-22.50).

SILVER Bullion + or - L.M.E. + or troy oz. + or Unofficial + or

Spot ... 978.80p +10.4 944p -50.5

3 months 875.78p +10.9 956.5p -2.5

6 months 1045.80p +10.9 967.8p -8

12 months 1121.10p +9.9 -

* Cents per pound. + \$PM per picul.
† On previous unofficial close.

COCOA

Trade selling, which in turn triggered some ex-ports selling orders from commission houses, caused cocoa futures to ease by as much as £20 in relatively thin trading conditions, before renewed speculative buying parried losses at the close of the day. Producers withdrew as sellers, but consumers better off take some price easing, reports Gill and Duffus.

Yesterdays + or - Business Close

COCOA

Sep. 886.85 -28 1010.986
Oct. 1088.55 -21 1065.43
Nov. 1072.73 -21 1063.04
Dec. 1090.95 -11 1103.04
Jan. 1109.12 -21 1138.29
Feb. 1151.82 -175 1138.29

Sales: 3,245 (2,406) lots of 10 tonnes. ICO futures: Daily price for Sept. 23 112.40 (111.62). Indicator price for Sept. 24: 10-day average 110.85 (110.20); 18-day average 108.05 (108.49).

COTTON

LIVERPOOL—Spot and shipment sales amounted to 226 tonnes, bringing the total for the week so far to 719 tonnes. Further useful transactions were recorded, mainly in North and South American growths. Scarfed contracts were under consideration in Middle Eastern qualities, with Turkish and Russian styles predominating.

Physical closing prices (buyer) were:

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